

UPCOMING EVENT:
Today's CTE: A Dead-End Track, or a Path to the Middle Class?

Join the Fordham Institute on April 14, 2016 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST for an informative discussion on how states and local communities can create high-quality CTE programs that lead to better student outcomes. Shaun M. Dougherty, assistant professor of educational policy and leadership at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education, is presenting. Cheryl A. Oldham, senior vice president of the USCCF Center for Education and Workforce, and Dr. Charisse Childers, director of the Arkansas Department of Career Education, are responding. And Mike Petrilli, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, is moderating. [Register now.](#)

ICYMI

COMMON CORE WATCH | APRIL 4, 2016
Common Core and PARCC
By Victoria Sears

Despite the continued controversy surrounding Common Core, the vast majority of states that originally adopted the standards have chosen to stick with them. But the same can't be said of several new assessments, including PARCC. That's a shame because PARCC meets Common Core's high bar for rigor and quality.

FLYPAPER | APRIL 4, 2016

Local control versus state obligation

By Andy Smarick

Even a careful observer of education policy could wonder, "Who's actually in charge of public schooling?" The long shadow cast by NCLB and all of the attention paid to ESSA might convince you that the feds are in control. But we know from experience that local school boards and superintendents make the lion's share of key decisions. And then there are state departments and boards of education. So who's in charge? No one and everyone.

FLYPAPER | APRIL 1, 2016

Public sector unions dodge a bullet in *Friedrichs* case

By Kevin Mahnken

It's difficult to overstate the effect of Scalia's death on the court's deadlock—and, indeed, on the future of organized labor in America. A broad ruling on philosophical lines may have functionally transformed California (and every other state in the country) into a "right-to-work" environment, stripping public sector unions of their power to extract money from non-members. Instead, the 4-4 tie means that nothing will really change after all.

[Want to read this all in one place? Check out Gadfly Original!](#)

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The Thomas B. Fordham Institute
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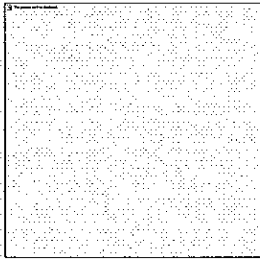
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From: The Buckeye Institute

Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 8:05 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: Just Released: Ohio Leapfrogged 30 Other States in New Rich States, Poor States Ranking



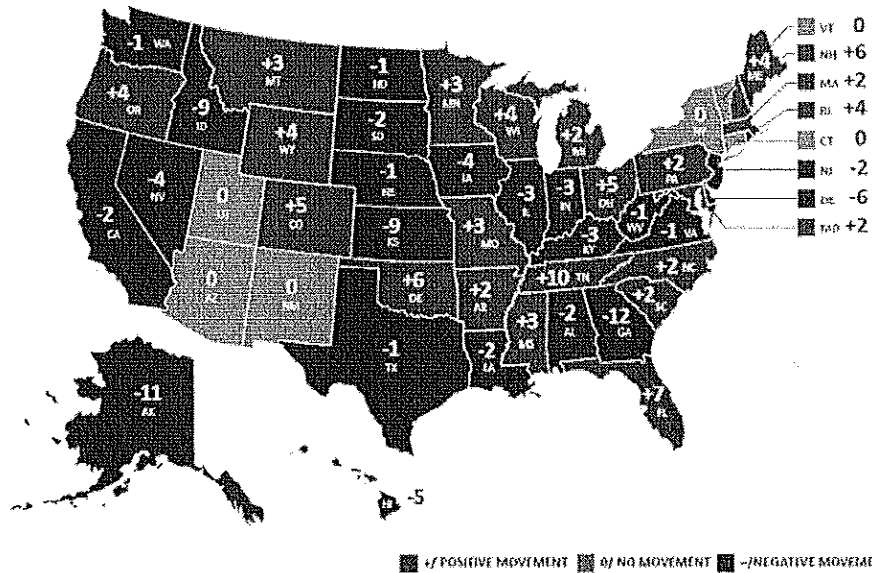
Buckeye Institute News Alert

Contact: Greg R. Lawson
614-224-4422
Greg@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2016

Earlier this morning economists Dr. Arthur B. Laffer, Jonathan Williams, and Stephen Moore released their 9th edition of Rich States, Poor States for the American Legislative Exchange Council.

RICH STATES, POOR STATES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK RANKING CHANGES FROM 2015 TO 2016

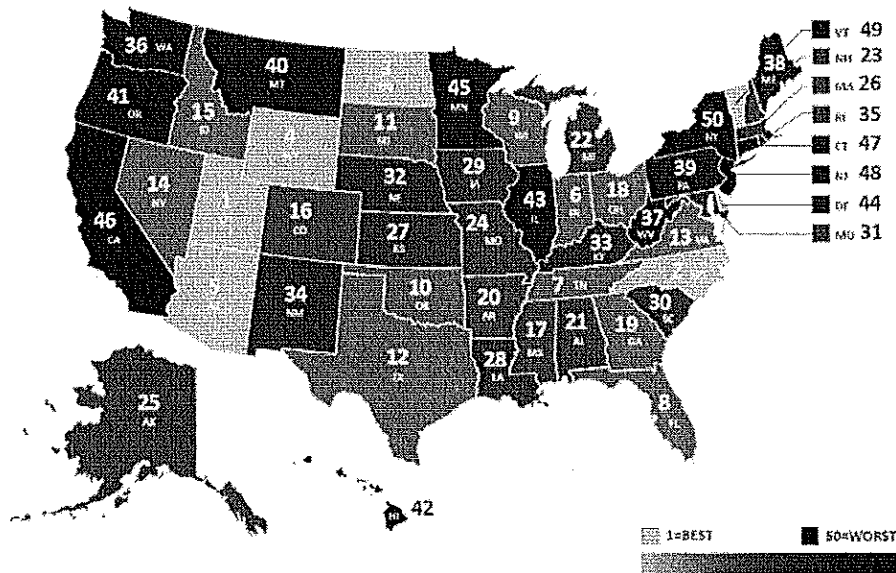


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ALEC

Governor Kasich and the General Assembly have cut income tax rates, eliminated the death tax, and constrained some spending. Only Kansas has cut more in taxes than Ohio over the past nine years. These policies have helped Ohio move up from the 49th worst economic performance out of the 50 states to the 18th best in the new rankings. Ohio's improvement was the largest increase in the nation.

2016 RICH STATES, POOR STATES ECONOMIC OUTLOOK RANKINGS



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ALEC

The rankings prove that cutting and eliminating taxes, reducing spending, and enacting labor reforms are the keys to economic prosperity. Ohio has taken steps on the first two counts, which means that the good news is that Ohio no longer has a bottom five ranking in this index, a place it had languished far too long. The bad news is that Ohio can't afford complacency and desperately needs to join our neighboring states in reforming labor laws. Wisconsin, which reformed its collective bargaining laws for public employees and adopted Right to Work, moved into the top ten on the Rich States, Poor States index. Ohio needs real labor reform in order to continue its ascent and reach its economic potential.

Thank you for supporting The Buckeye Institute's efforts to promote sound public policy in Ohio and all of the states.

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution--a think tank--whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

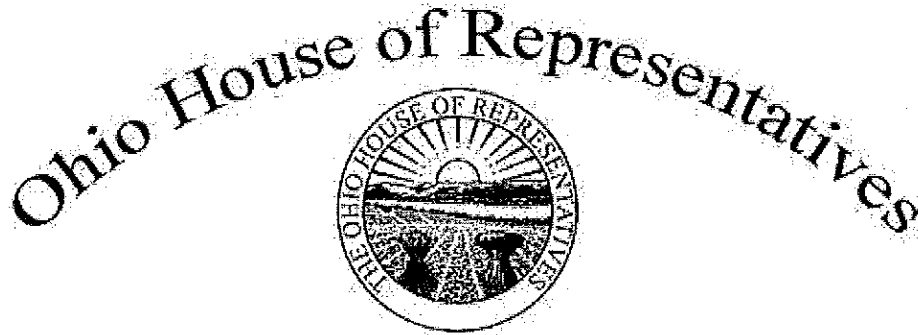
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members
From: Representative John Becker
Date: June 24, 2016
RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

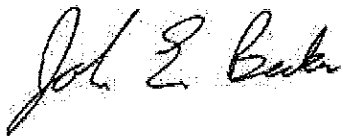
I will soon be introducing a public sector right-to-work bill.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Wednesday, June 29, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Becker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John Becker
65th House District

Roanna Thawley

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

Ohio House of Representatives



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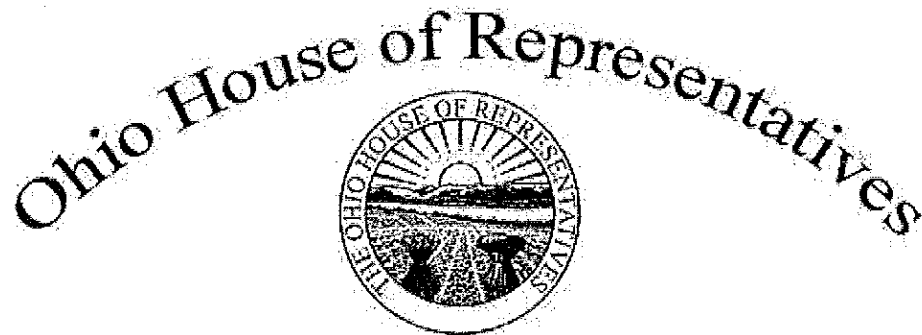
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John Becker
65th House District

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 10:51 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: REMINDER: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work
Attachments: Co-sponsor Request_Public Sector Right to Work_Becker.pdf



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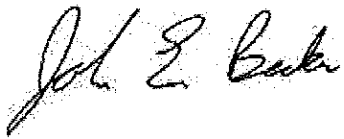
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John Becker
65th House District

From: report@hannah.com
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2016 3:35 PM
To: DL Hannah
Subject: Hannah News Stories for Thursday, June 30, 2016

Thursday, June 30, 2016

IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:

Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.

Today's Stories

- [ODAg Shifts Exotic Animal Enforcement Focus to Smaller Facilities](#)
- [CSRAB Launches Committee to Review Statehouse Art, Mulls Themed Lighting](#)
- [Lawsuit Backers Challenging Voter Purge Weigh Appeal](#)
- [ACLU Praises Revised RNC Rules after Successful Challenge](#)
- [Becker Introduces 'Right to Work' for Public Employees](#)
- [SAK Testing Nabs Serial Rapist, Secures Forensic Center Grant](#)
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- [Portman-Led Investigation Finds Cable Companies Overbilled Ohio, National Customers](#)
- [Stateline: Amid Opioid Epidemic, More Schools Offer 'Sober Dorms'](#)
- [State Government Roundup: ODOT](#)
- [People in the News: Stu Davis](#)
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From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 5:24 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Gongwer News Service Ohio Media Clips



GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio News & Opinion For July 1, 2016

News

[New attorneys' fees in Ohio to fund legal aid for poor \(Associated Press, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[How will medical marijuana affect your workplace? \(Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Joe Biden talks health care, praises doctors in Cleveland \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Obamacare tax hike scheduled to hit retirees next year, but Sens. Brown, Portman want to stop it \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Rep. John Becker proposes right-to-work bill for public employees \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Rob Portman's campaign, PAC each announce new ads targeting Ted Strickland \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

[Sen. Tim Kaine accepted clothes, vacation as gifts: Today's number in politics \(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016\)](#)

Senate panel advances Carole Rendon's nomination for U.S. attorney of Ohio's northern district (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Voting rights activists say election lawsuit claiming Jon Husted illegally purged voters is not over (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Controversial NRA ad attacking Clinton airing mostly in Ohio (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Ohio Politics Now: Will Hillary Clinton consider Richard Cordray as a running mate? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Portman coal radio ad targets southern Ohio voters (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

State, troopers union return to contract talks (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Local hospitals among hundreds with multiple privacy complaints (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Taxpayers shelling out fewer dollars for fireworks displays (Dayton Daily News, 7/1/2016)

Editorials

Commentary: The Supreme Court's Texas abortion ruling reignites a battle over facts (Canton Repository, 7/1/2016)

Six ways to make Ohio's online charter schools more accountable: editorial board (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/1/2016)

Perpetuating preferences (Columbus Dispatch, 7/1/2016)

Put babies over politics (Toledo Blade, 7/1/2016)

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Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 5:27 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/1/2016

HOUSE E-CLIPS

07/01/16



NEW ATTORNEYS' FEES IN OHIO TO FUND LEGAL AID FOR POOR

New attorneys' fees approved by the Ohio Supreme Court will help fund legal services for poor and disadvantaged Ohioans.



STATE, TROOPERS UNION RETURN TO CONTRACT TALKS

The state is heading back to the bargaining table to work on a contract with the Ohio State Troopers Association after the union soundly rejected a tentative agreement.

CITY OF COLUMBUS ISSUES NITRATE WARNING FOR TAP WATER

By 2018, city water officials say, they won't have to issue advisories like the one Thursday, when high nitrate levels in drinking water in parts of the Columbus area triggered a warning for pregnant women and babies.

OHIO POLITICS NOW: WILL HILLARY CLINTON CONSIDER RICHARD CORDRAY AS A RUNNING MATE?

Democrats in Columbus are apparently buzzing with the possibility of another Ohioan being considered as presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's running mate.

Dayton Daily News
www.daytondailynews.com

OHIO SUPREME COURT TO HEAR SPRINGFIELD RED LIGHT CAMERA LAW CHALLENGE

The Ohio Supreme Court will consider Springfield's challenge to red light camera laws, weighing city leaders' argument that the new regulations violate their local authority.

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL: CITIES CANNOT SET THEIR OWN MINIMUM WAGE

As the debate rages in Cleveland over a proposal to set the city's minimum wage at \$15 an hour starting in January, Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine on Thursday issued an opinion stating that municipalities cannot legally set their own minimum wage.

REP. JOHN BECKER PROPOSES RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

And Ohio lawmaker on Thursday introduced a right-to-work bill for public employees. But like a private employee bill proposed last fall, it's unlikely to pass.

VOTING RIGHTS ACTIVISTS SAY ELECTION LAWSUIT CLAIMING JON HUSTED

ILLEGALLY PURGED VOTERS IS NOT OVER

A day after Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted scored a win in federal court, voting rights activists say the case is not over.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION SECURE ZONE REVEALED: OHIO

POLITICS ROUNDUP

Countdown to Cleveland: With 17 days to go until the start of the Republican National Convention, we now know more about the boundaries of the high security perimeter surrounding Quicken Loans Arena. Read more from cleveland.com's Andrew J. Tobias' report.

SIX WAYS TO MAKE OHIO'S ONLINE CHARTER SCHOOLS MORE ACCOUNTABLE:

EDITORIAL BOARD

Led by state Sen. Peggy Lehner, the downstate Republican who chairs the Ohio Senate's education committee, the Ohio legislature did a yeoman's job last year of shoring up oversight of the state's much-ridiculed kindergarten-through-12th-grade charter school system.

THE ENQUIRER

STATE AUDIT: FOOD STAMPS ISSUED TO 36 DEAD PEOPLE

Dead people, duplicates and out-of-state purchases were just some of the fraudulent activities discovered in an audit of Ohio's food stamp program, according to State Auditor David Yost.

BECKER INTRODUCES PUBLIC RIGHT-TO-WORK BILL

Rep. John Becker knows many fellow Republicans, including Gov. John Kasich, have little interest in an Ohio right-to-work law, but that didn't stop him from offering one anyway.

HOW WILL MEDICAL MARIJUANA AFFECT YOUR WORKPLACE?

Andy Kaplan has been practicing law with the Cincinnati office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease for more than 30 years.

THE BLADE

One of America's Great Newspapers

PANEL WEIGHS SUPPORT FOR CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Deann Sanders' insurance company paid for the diagnosis of her severely autistic son at the age of 2, but offered no coverage for services.

From: Derksen, Nick
Sent: Friday, July 1, 2016 6:57 AM
To: mch@540westmarket.com
Subject: FW: E-Clips for 7/1/2016

Nick
614-466-2361
Nick.Derksen@ohiohouse.gov

From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2016 8:27 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 7/1/2016

HOUSE E-CLIPS

07/01/16

AP Associated Press

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GONGWER Ohio
The Record of Capitol Square Since 1906

Ohio News & Opinion For July 5, 2016

News

Ohio usually a swing state, nearly always a bellwether (Associated Press, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's new schools superintendent gets on the job, looking for input from educators (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Canton Repository, 7/5/2016)

Ad Watch: NRA says Strickland 'sold out' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Becker introduces public right-to-work bill (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

Trump announces visit to Sharonville Convention Center (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

'Raise Up Cleveland' continues \$15 minimum wage campaign, despite attorney general's opinion: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

No statewide ballot measures planned for Ohio's November election (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Prospective new political parties in Ohio face filing deadline: What to watch for Tuesday (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Republican National Convention secure zone revealed: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Even after Kasich's campaign, state says it can't tally, release security bill (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Capitol Insider: Who in Ohio Democratic Party helped John Raphael? (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Dispute over school funding embroils new federal education law (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Medicaid tax change to cost Ohio, counties (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Ohio quietly gave larger raises to non-union managers (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Portman, Strickland focus on Ohio's drug crisis in Senate campaigns (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

State asks feds for permission to charge new Medicaid fees (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

GOP Convention: Who's going to speak? Where are the sponsors? (Dayton Daily News, 7/5/2016)

Ohio law requires Tdap, meningitis shots (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Portman launching \$1M TV ad campaign (Toledo Blade, 7/5/2016)

Editorials

Voices of protest in Cleveland (Akron Beacon Journal, 7/5/2016)

Impact of heroin addiction on driving statistics (Cincinnati Enquirer, 7/5/2016)

George Voinovich's legacy of collaborative politics must be revived: Joe Lieberman (Opinion) (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Ohio's restrictive abortion-clinic laws need to be revised after Supreme Court's Texas ruling: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

Trump's message resonates in Ohio coal country: Thomas Suddes (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 7/5/2016)

New rules to let drone use soar (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

Voters want to rein in government (Columbus Dispatch, 7/5/2016)

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From: Ohio House Republican Communications
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 10:04 AM
Subject: Week in Review 6/27/16 – 7/4/16



OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Majority Communications Department

GOP Week in Review

6/27/16 – 7/4/16

The Vindicator: New Ohio state laws and their impact, to take effect in August, September

There were big bills that were signed into law – a \$2.6 billion capital budget with projects across the states, and a fast-paced medical marijuana effort that will add Ohio to the list of states allowing the drug for specified medical conditions.

Sandusky Register: Sandusky State Theatre will be upgraded soon

State Sen. Randy Gardner, R-Bowling Green, and state Rep. Steve Arndt, R-Port Clinton, both included the Sandusky State Theatre in a list of local projects that needed support.

Enquirer: Becker introduces public right-to-work bill

Becker, R-Union Township in Clermont County, called his proposal a "win-win" for both sides: it would allow public sector workers to opt out of union representation and dues. But those who opt out would not be eligible for union protections.

Akron Legal News: New heroin law takes aim at drug dealers

"This legislation will hold the drug dealers who are poisoning our neighborhoods accountable while we continue to help the addicted seek treatment," said Rep. Jonathan Dever, R-Madeira, a sponsor of the bill. "There is no silver bullet for ridding Ohio of heroin, but this law is a part of a solution that includes education and treatment options."

Journal-News: New addiction treatment center opens in West Chester

State Rep. Margy Conditt, R-Liberty Twp, was also at the ribbon-cutting and she feels that Lumiere can help save lives and will be a benefit to Butler County.

Dispatch: Law fills a gap in paramedic care

He and state Rep. Tim Ginter, R- Salem, were especially concerned that paramedics couldn't provide an antidote to police dogs that ,while working, were poisoned by prescription pain drugs or heroin.

Ellwood City Ledger: New law supports first responders who treat injured pets

Ohio's law, which follows a similar action by Colorado in 2014, came about after Bob Swickard, the director of an EMS service in a small town in northeastern Ohio, contacted state Republican Rep. Tim Ginter with concerns about a recent rash of on-duty injuries to police dogs.

Springfield News-Sun: Buck Creek State Park gets \$1.4M in upgrades

The state held a dedication ceremony for the cabins at the state park Thursday.

The Independent: Rep. Christina Hagan shepherds Epi-pen bill

House Bill 200, sponsored by State Rep. Christina Hagan, permits public establishments, such as restaurants, swimming pools, schools and amusement parks, to carry a non-patient specific prescription to keep epinephrine, which can be administered via an injector known as an Epi-Pen.

Times Reporter: Column from Rep. Andy Thompson: Celebrating our country this Fourth of July

On this day, the 240th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, people all across the nation engage in traditional celebrations of our nation's independence, with cookouts, fireworks, parades and the like.

The Vindicator: New law allows Ohioans to drink higher-alcohol content beer

Here are 10 more of 60 law changes OK'd before lawmakers left Columbus for their summer recess, with most set to take effect in August or September.

Dispatch: Hit-skip law wrecks create challenges for investigators who piece cases together

State Rep. Brian Hill, a Zanesville Republican, and Ohio Sen. John Eklund, a Republican from Geauga County, pushed for the changes. Fleeing the scene of a crash that causes serious injury or death is now a second-degree felony, which could carry as much as an 8-year sentence.

Heartland News: Ohio Lawmakers Approve Civil Asset Forfeiture Reforms

State Rep. Robert McColley (R-Napoleon) says the current system violates Ohioans' property and due process rights.

Journal-News: Hamilton natural gas customers dodge 10 percent rate hike

Gov. John Kasich signed a bill Tuesday that will spare Hamilton's natural-gas customers a 10-percent rate increase. "He signed it around 4:30 yesterday afternoon," state Rep.

Wes Retherford, R-Hamilton, said Wednesday. Retherford and Rep. Tim Schaffer, R-Lancaster, who both live in cities with municipal gas utilities, sponsored the legislation.

Akron Beacon Journal: Kasich signs expanded movie-production credit for Ohio

"We are grateful to Governor Kasich, the Ohio House, and the Ohio Senate for giving us this opportunity to continue to grow a thriving and adaptive media industry in Northeast Ohio. I'd also like to thank Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, Rep. Kirk Schuring, and Sen. Tom Patton, who have championed this legislation, and know just how much a sustainable media industry can benefit Ohio."

Record-Herald: CACFC celebrates 'National Homeownership Month'

Community Action Commission of Fayette County (CACFC) celebrated National Homeownership Month on June 24 by hosting an open house at the newly constructed home of Damian (Scott) and Ashley Forsha and their children. Also present were Marty Heide, representing Congressman Michael Turner, and State Rep. Gary Scherer was also in attendance.

Times Reporter: Leaders from three counties, Ohio are inching closer to making progress on Route 30

Last year, state Rep. Kirk Schuring, R-Jackson Township, was influential in getting legislation passed that created a Regional Transportation Improvement Project. Now three counties — Stark, Carroll and Columbiana — have signed a cooperative agreement with a county commissioner from each to form the co-op.

Daily Sentinel: Field of Hope breaks new ground

State and federal officials appeared from the offices of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, state Rep. Ryan Smith, Congressman Bill Johnson, Sen. Rob Portman, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Gallipolis Municipal Court.

The Blade: Accessible-for-all playground a first in northwest Ohio

The renovation of Lakeview Park makes it northwest Ohio's first fully accessible playground. Also present were state Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) and Port Clinton Mayor Hugh Wheeler, Jr. An aide to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) presented two flags that had flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the park's reopening.

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Tuesday, July 5, 2016 3:14 PM
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Attachments: 160705dayplan.htm; Jul5.htm; Jul5Senate.htm



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Ohio Report for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

Activity Reports

Senate

Calendars

Day Planner

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Daily Activity Planner for Wednesday, July 6

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 E. Broad St., 11th Fl., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.

Event Planner

Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Historic Parlor and Conservatory, 348 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, 5 p.m., (Event Host: \$1000; Couple: \$150, Individual: \$100 to Friends of John Eklund)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Volume #85, Report #128 -- Tuesday, July 5, 2016

Supreme Court To Hear Second Traffic Camera Case; City Of Springfield Argues Home Rule Hangs In The Balance

The state's high court has agreed to take up a second challenge to a law that has all but eliminated the use of traffic cameras by municipalities.

The Ohio Supreme Court will hear arguments from the city of Springfield that a measure (SB342, 130th General Assembly) that requires a police officer to be present where traffic cameras are operating violates home rule and is not a general law.

In its memorandum in support of jurisdiction, the city called the law "a thinly veiled attempt to destroy local traffic-camera programs."

The city, which established its traffic camera program in 2005 at 10 intersections with high crash rates, sued over the law in Clark County Common Pleas Court but lost. It then took its case to the Second District Court of Appeals, where it again was unsuccessful.

The city now argues that if the appellate court decision is upheld, it could cripple the concept of home rule throughout the state.

"The Second District's decision erroneously reduces municipal authority and would return cities and villages to the position they were in before the people of the state of Ohio changed their constitution in 1912," the city wrote.

The city also makes the case that a "state statute with the principal purpose and effect of limiting municipal authority is not a general law to which municipal ordinances must yield."

"The Legislative Service Commission told the General Assembly that a single section of the bill, the section requiring a police officer to be present at the camera site, would cost municipalities \$73 million. The police officer sitting at the intersection has no role in the photo-enforcement process," the city wrote. "Inexplicably, SB342 requires that the officer sitting idly at a camera site must be a full-time officer. These provisions serve only one purpose - to burden photo-enforcement programs with excessive costs so that cities and villages will abandon them."

The court declined to take up a third proposition of law on whether a municipality has standing to seek a declaratory judgment declaring a state statute to be an unconstitutional incursion of its power of local self-government even where the statute does not conflict with a municipal ordinance.

In an amicus brief filed with the court in support of jurisdiction, the Ohio Municipal League and the city of Dayton, which is engaged in its own litigation over the law, also make the case that the concept of home rule is at stake. The city of Toledo has also filed an amicus brief in support of jurisdiction in the case.

"This matter extends well beyond a municipality's ability to adopt and enforce automatic traffic enforcement programs," the Dayton and OML filing states. "If the Second District's decision stands, it would give the General Assembly authority to legislatively eliminate constitutionally-provided home rule powers, specifically, those powers that are purely local."

The state, however, in its memorandum in response to jurisdiction called the lawsuit "a companion to the attack on the state's comprehensive regulation of traffic cameras."

"Like Dayton, its arguments rest on exaggerated conceptions of its home rule authority and distorted views of S.B. 342," the attorney general's office writes.

The state also deemed both lawsuits to be "quixotic attempts to redefine the court's teachings on police power regulations and standing."

After NEOCH Decision, Seitz Suggests Lawmakers Implement Photo ID Requirements For Voting

Following a federal judge's decision that struck down three provisions contained in election-related legislation that he says placed undue burdens on certain voters, one GOP lawmaker said it may be time to go with a "more rigorous" identification requirement blessed by the nation's high court.

One of the provision struck down required voters accurately complete all five fields on the provisional ballot affirmation and absentee identification envelope before their ballots could be counted, which Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) said in an interview were for identification purposes.

Since that has been deemed unconstitutional, Sen. Seitz said lawmakers may have no choice but to go the voter ID route.

"This constant meddling in our state election laws ultimately means that you have to resort to something the Supreme Court has already blessed," he said. "I suppose you leave us no choice but to go the photo ID route."

Sen. Seitz said the identification measure struck down was designed to prevent voter fraud. He said the federal government refuses to tell the secretary of state's office if a Social Security number corresponds to an illegal alien.

"We have precious little protection against voting by illegal aliens," he said.

But Rep. Kathleen Clyde (D-Kent) said requiring state-issued IDs to cast ballots will be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

"This is more bluster and bullying of Ohio's voters from Senator Seitz, who has been deeply involved with most of the anti-voter legislation that the courts have thrown out over the last several years," she said. "Photo-only voter ID legislation is wrong for Ohio. It's not necessary, it's discriminatory, and it would cost the state and voters millions of dollars to implement."

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon L. Marbley's ruling, which struck down two other provisions in election-related legislation passed during the previous General Assembly, is being appealed. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 8, 2016)

Along with throwing out the provisional ballot requirements, the judge delivered a harsh critique of voting law trends in Ohio over the last several years, saying "the Republican-controlled General Assembly's frenetic pace of introducing such legislation reflects questionable motives, given the wealth of other problems facing the state which actually needed solutions."

"If the dog whistles in the General Assembly continue to get louder, courts considering future challenges to voting restrictions in Ohio may very well find that intentional discrimination is afoot," he wrote.

Sen. Setiz, however, said he and his colleague do not have any intention to put a moratorium on election-related legislation.

"Please be assured we are not going to be delinquent in doing our duty to the people of Ohio," he said.

He also denied there was a racial motivation behind the legislation, noting that another federal court judge found the provision to be constitutional.

"This is just another example of the double-standard that activist judges who might be better suited to be legislators are following in their zeal to do the will of the Ohio Democratic Party," he said.

Josh Eck, spokesman for Secretary of State Jon Husted, said the appeals process should be allowed to play out.

"Secretary Husted certainly understands Senator Seitz's frustration with the federal court's intrusion into Ohio's elections, which is why he has appealed the ruling," he said. "Once the appeal is decided and the 2016 election is over, we can calmly assess what law changes will be necessary to ensure a balance in our election system where it is both easy to vote and hard to cheat."

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) recently took to the Senate floor to call on his colleagues to pass an updated version of the Voting Rights Act. During his speech, he commented

on Judge Marbley's ruling and railed again voting "laws passed by an ultra-conservative state legislature in Columbus."

"We're the only advanced democracy in the world where there's actually efforts to restrict access to the ballot box," he said.

A voter ID bill has already been introduced this General Assembly. The measure (HB 189), put forth by Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), has yet to receive a committee hearing.

Legislation Aligns Health Assessments For Hospitals, Public Health Districts In Effort To Improve Population Health Planning

Nonprofit hospitals and local health districts will have to complete health assessments along the same three-year cycles starting next year, according to legislation signed recently by Gov. John Kasich.

The requirement was part of a broader budget update bill (HB 390) the governor signed Tuesday. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 28, 2016)

Aligning the assessment periods is designed to make it easier for hospitals and their local public health officials to work together on setting priorities, according to the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

Hospitals have already been conducting their health assessments in three-year cycles, but local health districts have been doing so on five-year cycles. The change eliminates one of the barriers to cooperation between hospitals and local health districts, said Beth Bickford, executive director of the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners.

"The whole idea is to encourage hospitals and local health departments, both of which have requirements in this regard, to try to work more closely together and to get their planning aligned so hopefully they can feed off each other's work and get some synergy in communities to achieve their health outcomes," she said in an interview.

"It is a bit of a daunting task to completely solve the problem, but I think this effort to set the three-year interval is an effort to try to at least align things from a timing perspective," she added.

There are other hurdles that hinder cooperation, she said, including geography. Hospitals and health districts don't always serve the same areas.

John Palmer, a spokesman for the Ohio Hospital Association, said hospitals already work with health districts on community health assessments, but the change will make that cooperation even easier.

"This new provision will strengthen involvement and support collaboration for our members and their partners that will benefit Ohioans and our communities," he said in an email.

One concern for local public health officials is the added cost and effort of producing the assessments every three years as opposed to every five, Ms. Bickford said.

"They're concerned about taxing their community partners with a process that is a time investment," she said. "There's a fair amount of concern about the extra time, money and asking others to commit their time as well to have it done more frequently."

The assessments look at a number of health factors affecting their communities, including rates of smoking, chronic conditions, risk factors and infectious diseases, Ms. Bickford said. Getting better information and coordinating efforts more will improve the picture health officials have of their communities' concerns.

"We can do a better job of seeing whether or not we're moving the needle on some of these health indicators," she said.

The change is also part of a broader state goal of aligning health assessments and planning to affect overall population health outcomes, according to a presentation by OHT. That broader goal includes a state health assessment, a draft of which was released last week (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 27, 2016), and a state health improvement plan slated for the fall.

Ohio's Competitive Marketplace Driving Lower-Than-Average Policy Rates, Insurance Leaders Say

Ohio's insurance marketplace is among the largest in the country and a plethora of companies call the state home - both factors that play a part in residents paying lower-than-average rates for casualty and property policies, according to the Department of Insurance.

Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, who also serves as director of ODI, pointed to a recently released 2015 market share report of state-licensed property and casualty groups as proof that Ohio's policies continue to drive low insurance rates and make the state a preferable place to do business.

"We are focused on protecting consumers and fostering a competitive marketplace that is efficiently regulated," she said in a statement. "Positive results are being realized on multiple fronts."

There are nearly 1,000 property and casualty companies in the state's marketplace and about 140 of those are headquartered in Ohio, she said in an ODI release. State Farm, which is headquartered in Indiana, has the largest market share, holding 12.6% of all policies.

Meanwhile, Columbus-based Nationwide and Illinois-based Allstate are tied for second place at 6.7% and Progressive, which is headquartered in Mayfield, had the fourth largest market share, the report shows.

Dean Fadel, vice president of government relations for the Ohio Insurance Institute, said the market share report findings are "another demonstration of the competitive nature of the environment" that has been fostered in the state.

"We have the third most companies in the nation vying for Ohio consumers which is translated to us getting below national average rates on homeowners and auto insurance," he said in an interview. "I think when you factor in the urbanization and the traffic in Ohio, we arguably have the lowest rates in the nation."

"It's a marketplace where companies are allowed to compete, they're allowed to use within the regulatory schemes the most modernized ways of providing the product and we don't have a lot of insolvencies," Mr. Fadel added.

Ohio's average auto and homeowners premiums are \$515 below the national averages, according to a 2013 National Association of Insurance Commissioners analysis. Residents paid an average of \$763 for homeowners insurance and \$659 for auto insurance.

Employment opportunities have also been positively impacted by the state's thriving insurance industry, Ms. Taylor said.

Since 2011, she has led the charge to fill a projected 26,000 new insurance jobs by 2020 through an administration initiative called Insuring Ohio Futures. The effort includes partnerships between higher education institutions and industry leaders to create education and career pathways.

As a result, ODI reported that nine Ohio colleges and universities now offer insurance and risk management programs including bachelor, associate degrees short-term certification programs.

"We have been able to transform the landscape in just a few short years," Ms. Taylor said. "Educational programs exist that are ready to help Ohioans of all ages prepare for and claim good paying insurance jobs."

There are currently about 100,000 Ohioans working in the industry, earning the state the designation of having the seventh highest number of insurance employees in the country, according to an OII analysis. About one-third of those careers are in the property/casualty insurance field that the institute represents.

In total, more than 230 insurance companies in all segments of the industry call Ohio home, the institute reported.

Clinton To Open Ohio Campaign Offices, Leads Trump In Latest Fundraising Numbers

Hillary Clinton out fundraised opponent Donald Trump in the Buckeye State nearly eight-to-one for the month of May - even after the GOP field narrowed and the billionaire solidified himself as the last Republican standing.

Building on that momentum, Ms. Clinton's campaign announced Friday the campaign took in another \$40 million during June and said Tuesday that it will open 11 new offices across the state of Ohio in the coming week.

Those include offices in Cleveland, Toledo and Woodland, with phone banks to be established in Boardman, Canton, Cleveland, Columbus, Hilliard and Trotwood. The campaign will also host a fundraiser in Lebanon and an organizing event in Delaware this week.

Mr. Trump's campaign, however, has been fairly quiet in Ohio, other than the recent hire of state campaign manager Bob Paduchik. The candidate visited the state for the first time post-primary last week. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

Gov. John Kasich withdrew from the race May 4, clearing the way for Mr. Trump to focus on fundraising and other general election prep rather than seizing delegates. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 26, 2016)

But the latest Federal Election Commission filings from each campaign show that Ms. Clinton, who for much of May was battling Sen. Bernie Sanders for the Democratic nomination, raised \$153,447.22 from Ohioans between May 1-31. During that same time period Mr. Trump raised \$18,722.89 in the state.

Released last week, the numbers already showed that Mr. Trump and Ms. Clinton trailed their primary opponents in fundraising from Ohio donors. Sen. Sanders for example raised \$158,768 in Ohio while Sen. Ted Cruz led the Republican side despite his May 3 withdrawal. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 21, 2016)

As both campaigns shift toward the general election, however, the numbers highlight the breadth of Ms. Clinton's fundraising infrastructure compared to that of Mr. Trump's. The candidates entered June - their first full month as the presumptive nominees of their respective parties - with \$42.46 million in cash on hand for the Clinton campaign and nearly \$1.29 million in cash on hand for the Trump campaign.

Of the 57 states or territories in which both candidates received donations in May, Ms. Clinton raised more money by far in all of those areas. Her filing shows the former secretary of state raised nearly \$15.04 million from 64 territories or states, while Mr. Trump raised \$1.01 million from 56 states or territories along with a \$250 donation from a foreign country.

Ms. Clinton even outperformed Mr. Trump in right-leaning states - such as Texas, in which Ms. Clinton hauled in \$1.4 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$122,251. In their home state of New York, where Ms. Clinton was a U.S. Senator, that trend continued with Ms. Clinton earning nearly \$1.87 million compared to Mr. Trump's \$52,697.

In Ohio, Mr. Trump received donations from 25 counties in May - the largest of which were \$5,150 from Franklin County and \$2,700 each from supporters in Lorain and Miami counties. By comparison, Ms. Clinton earned donors in 76 Ohio counties, with the largest donations coming from urban areas - including \$35,818 from Cuyahoga County, \$29,038 from Hamilton County, and \$27,499 from Franklin County.

In response, the Trump campaign launched a fundraising blitz last week leading up to the second quarter FEC filing deadline of June 30th.

The campaign set a goal of raising \$10 million by the deadline, with the candidate's son, Eric Trump, telling supporters via email, "The truth is we did better than \$11 million and no amount of spin from Crooked Hillary's machine can change that fact."

The Clinton campaign, meanwhile, claims to have raised more than \$40 million during the month of June, with an additional \$28 million raised for the Democratic National Committee and state parties.

"Our first month of general election fundraising proved to be the best of the campaign," Campaign Manager Robby Mook said in a statement. "Thanks to the continued support of nearly 1.6 million people, we have been able to help Democrats build out an organizing infrastructure across the country that will mobilize millions of voters and help elect progressive candidates up and down the ballot."

The campaigns' second quarter filings, due July 15, will further show whether that funding gap persists.

Part of the contrast so far is thanks to Mr. Trump's limited fundraising efforts during the primary season. Although the campaign has accepted donations since it launched last year, it has mostly subsisted on loans from Mr. Trump to the campaign. The June filing shows the campaign has received \$45.7 million in loans from or guaranteed by the candidate during the election cycle.

Gov. Kasich, meanwhile, continues to try to aid down-ballot Republicans, including ally U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park). (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 29, 2016)

A Tuesday email from Kasich's suspended campaign - the second such missive in as many weeks from Kasich for America - highlighted several recent media reports showcasing "Kasich's efforts to help our party maintain the majority in the U.S. Senate and also about Gov. Kasich's ongoing popularity in national polls."

Politics Notebook: FBI Recommends No Charge Over Clinton Emails; ODP Blasts Latest Right-To Work Attempt; Advocates Press Kasich For Action On Hunger...

FBI Director James Comey said Tuesday he is recommending Hillary Clinton not be charged for her handling of classified information via a personal email server while serving as secretary of state.

Still, he strongly chastised the Democratic presumptive nominee and her staff for being "extremely careless" in her handling of sensitive information.

"Although we did not find clear evidence that Secretary Clinton or her colleagues intended to violate laws governing the handling of classified information, there is evidence that they were extremely careless in their handling of very sensitive, highly classified information."

Of the 30,000 emails provided by Ms. Clinton and the State Department in December 2014, the FBI determined 100 emails in 52 email chains contained classified information at the time they were sent or received. Eight of those contained information that was "Top Secret" when sent, 36 contained information that was marked "Secret," and eight contained "Confidential" information.

Director Comey said there were several examples of email communication regarding Top Secret/Special Access Program level information and that it is reasonable for a person in Ms. Clinton's position or her staff to "have known that an unclassified system was no place for that conversation."

Mr. Comey said his recommendation to the Department of Justice, which has the final determination on the matter, was based on a lack of willful intent to violate statute and was reached in "an entirely apolitical and professional way."

"In looking back at our investigations into mishandling or removal of classified information, we cannot find a case that would support bringing criminal charges on these facts," he said. "All the cases prosecuted involved some combination of: clearly intentional and willful mishandling of classified information; or vast quantities of materials exposed in such a way as to support an inference of intentional misconduct; or indications of disloyalty to the United States; or efforts to obstruct justice. We do not see those things here."

A Clinton spokesman said, "We are glad that this matter is now resolved," adding that Ms. Clinton has "long said it was a mistake to use her personal email and she would not do it again."

Republicans at all levels were quick to criticize the FBI's recommendation, with Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges calling the findings "a clear indictment on Hillary Clinton's lack of preparedness and judgment to be commander-in-chief."

"This wouldn't have been an issue had Hillary Clinton followed the law like everybody else and used a State Department account," Mr. Borges said. "Instead, Hillary Clinton set up an email system less secure than Gmail for herself to evade the rules because she didn't want people to know what she was doing."

Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton likewise criticized the FBI.

"Frankly, there's a disconnect between Comey's devastating findings and his weak recommendation not to prosecute Hillary Clinton," Mr. Fitton said. "Federal prosecutors, independent of politics, need to consider whether to pursue the potential violations of law confirmed by the FBI."

Right to Work: Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) on Friday introduced a bill to make Ohio a right-to-work state, triggering an immediate reaction from state Democrats.

Critics compared the measure (HB 583) to a previous bill that that passed in 2011 only to be overwhelmingly overturned by voters (SB5, 129th General Assembly). Since then, Gov. John Kasich has repeatedly said right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda.

The latest bill would remove any requirement under collective bargaining law that public employees must join or pay dues to any employee organization.

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), said a decision about where the bill is headed has yet to be made.

"Since the bill was just introduced last week, the Speaker has not yet had a chance to fully review the legislation. When committee and House session resume in the fall, the caucus will discuss the bill further," she said.

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

"Ohio Democrats strongly oppose this ideological attack on Ohio's working families, which will drive down wages, benefits and overall living standards for all Ohio worker," Mr. Pepper said. "It's time for real leadership in Ohio, and it's time for Gov. John Kasich to state unequivocally that he will veto any 'right to work' bill that is sent to his desk."

Hunger: Advocates are continuing to lobby Gov. John Kasich to request full federal food assistance for eligible counties and communities.

The call follows a recent Policy Matters Ohio report that examines communities eligible for a federal waiver of time limits in 2017. The deadline for the waiver request is this summer.

But the state has not submitted such requests in the last three years, prompting Policy Matters and others to urge Gov. Kasich to action.

"The failure to request a waiver of time limits in all eligible areas has hurt people in urban areas like Cleveland, but also in rural places, like Vinton County," PMO Senior Project Director Wendy Patton said. "We again call on the Kasich administration to maximize its use of federal resources so that hungry Ohioans can meet their most basic need - food."

Joining in the call were the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio, the Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and the Ohio Council of Churches.

U.S. Senate Race: The campaign of U.S. Sen. Rob Portman launched a \$1 million statewide TV ad campaign aimed at highlighting the Terrace Park Republican's record of "standing up to China and fighting for Ohio Workers."

China and trade have been a sticking point between the incumbent and Democratic challenger and former Gov. Ted Strickland, with both throwing continued barbs at their rival's record on the topic.

The latest ad, called "Steel," focuses on Burke Byer of Cincinnati's Byer Steel as he describes an unfair playing field between American and Chinese workers.

"Our new ad highlights Rob's long record of fighting for Ohio manufacturers and workers like those at Cincinnati's Byer Steel," Portman spokeswoman Michawn Rich said. "Rob is the only candidate in this race with a record of standing up to China. Rob is leading the fight to stop China's currency manipulation and level the playing field on trade so Ohio workers can compete and win."

Supplemental Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Supplemental Event Planner

No events scheduled.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers


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Senate Activity for Tuesday, July 5, 2016

INTRODUCED

SCR 22 

FIREARMS (Yuko, K.) To urge Congress to enact legislation denying firearms and explosives to suspected terrorists.

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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Ohio Report for Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In = 2Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Attorney General's Opinion

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Supplemental Event Planner

Calendars

Day Planner

Event Planner

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Volume #85, Report #136 -- Friday, July 15, 2016

Timeline For Energy Freeze Action Unclear, Says Senate No. 2

A Senate leader said lawmakers may not act on the soon-to-end freeze on renewable energy and energy efficiency standards until sometime next year.

Sen. Larry Obhof (R-Medina), the Senate's president pro tem and likely next chamber leader, said in an interview this week he advocates for an "all the above approach" to rethinking the mandates that were frozen in 2014 and are set to kick back in at the end of this year without legislative action.

But such an undertaking might not be easier considering the limited number of session days scheduled this fall, he said. The Senate is scheduled to return in late September with at most 21 days set for work in committees, and much fewer days anticipated for full sessions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 1, 2016) The House, meanwhile, is set to reconvene after the November election with at most eight full session days.

"I think that's a pretty big issue and if there's not that many session days it remains to be seen whether that'll be tackled in that amount of time," Sen. Obhof said. "I definitely think moving forward whether it's at the end of this year or at the beginning of the next General Assembly we need to come up with a comprehensive and consistent policy on energy."

By not acting by Dec. 31, the freeze would thaw, allowing the standards to kick back into effect, which Republicans argue could harm Ohio considering lingering uncertainty over the federal Clean Power Plan and other unknowns. Proponents of the standards say any effort to extend the freeze or lower the standards would take the state backward.

There are currently three bills pending in either chamber with different approaches. A bill from Sen. Bill Seitz (SB 320) would extend the freeze until 2019, while a bill from Rep. Ron Amstutz (HB 554) would extend the freeze indefinitely. A third bill (SB 325), from Sen. Kris Jordan, would abolish the mandates completely. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 11, 2016)

If none of those bills pass by the end of the 131st General Assembly, the legislative slate will be wiped clean and a new bill would need to be authored to tackle the issue next year.

Sen. Obhof said that even if lawmakers act on the freeze, he believes more comprehensive action would be needed in the next General Assembly.

"I think there will be some kind of action in the next 12 to 18 months regardless of whether the freeze is extended or not," Sen. Obhof said. "I don't know if there is any

science supporting the current numbers and mandates in law. I think we need to have a fact-based approach, one that has room for all the natural resources available."

The pending end of the freeze is one of the reasons cited by Sen. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) as a reason for more Republican scrutiny of Gov. John Kasich's recent appointee to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Democratic attorney Howard Petricoff on Tuesday faced his first hearing before the Sen. Seitz's Senate Public Utilities Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 12, 2016)

"I believe we're at a unique crossroads caused by a fairly simultaneous convergence of numerous complex issues," Sen. Seitz said. "I think we all need to make an effort to understand each other on these issues and of course no one is more central to that vortex than the five members of the PUCO."

Other uncertainties he cited include ongoing rehearings of proposed Power Purchase Agreements from AEP and FirstEnergy, the departure of former PUCO Chairman Andre Porter, and the ongoing federal court case over the legality of the Clean Power Plan.

ECOT Debate Becomes Campaign Fodder In State Senate Race

In one of the first significant rhetorical volleys in this legislative campaign cycle, the rising controversy over funding and student attendance at the state's largest online charter school is a point of contention in the race for the open 16th Senate District.

Democrat Cathy Johnson, a teacher looking to upset favored Rep. Stephanie Kunze (R-Hilliard) in the right-leaning western Franklin County seat, fired the initial salvo this week in criticizing the Republican over issues related to the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow.

Her criticisms were dismissed by Sen. Dave Burke (R-Marysville), chairman of the Republican Senate Campaign Committee, who described the Democrat's statements as "misguided to say the least" and defended the Republican's positions on and support for education.

The race for the seat being vacated by Sen. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) is one of only a handful in the Senate this year that's expected to be even marginally competitive thanks to the GOP-led reapportionment process. It has trended Republican for several years, but Democrats are hoping that with a polarizing candidate atop the GOP ticket they can make hay in legislative races this fall.

ECOT is currently locked in a legal battle with the Ohio Department of Education over attendance records, with a looming audit having the potential to strip millions of funding from the online charter founded by Bill Lager. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 11, 2016)

Ms. Johnson in a campaign release "announced her support" for ODE's attempts to examine ECOT's records and said Rep. Kunze voted "against measures to hold e-

schools accountable in 2015" and "has accepted \$33,000 from ECOT's founder, Bill Lager, over the past four years."

"As a mother, teacher and taxpayer, I am astonished by the deceptive tactics of this taxpayer-funded e-school," Ms. Johnson said. "It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance."

The Democrat said Ms. Kunze "voted with Republicans to block amendments that would have required annual audits for charter school operators, clarified that records of all charter school operators are public records and given the public more access to information on charter school board members and meeting times."

"It's disappointing that Representative Kunze refused to stand up for Ohio's students and taxpayers by holding ECOT accountable when she had the chance," Ms. Johnson added. "Instead, she chose to accept donations from ECOT's founder. We need a State Senator who is dedicated to fighting for students and families. Anyone can say yes to special interests with deep pockets."

Sen. Burke questioned the focus of Ms. Johnson's assertions, saying Rep. Kunze has a record that belies such criticisms.

"Stephanie Kunze has a record of supporting both public education and parent choice," he said. "I would also say that both traditional public education and charter schools and ECOT schools, etc. are all in need of improvement beyond a shadow of a doubt and that is what we're working on."

To that end, Sen. Burke said, Ms. Kunze was a cosponsor of HB 2, which he described as "the largest reform bill dealing with non-traditional public schools." As the legislature continues to look for improvements to all kinds of public schools, he added, "she is obviously supportive of that."

"I would say, unlike Ms. Johnson's statement, that rather than have a singular source of education, that Stephanie believes parents should have a choice. The competition within that market drives improvement, so in order for public schools to get better, parents should have a choice."

The Republican said some of the tabled budget amendments the Democrat is apparently referring to "would have basically eliminated parent choice."

Sen. Burke also pushed back on the suggestion of a quid pro quo involving campaign donations.

"I imagine Stephanie Kunze, like me, accepts money from a lot of people," he said. "I've taken money from Bill Lager. I also was a direct cosponsor of (Sen. Peggy Lehner's) bill to reform ECOT and charter schools from day one."

"I guess the inverse question there would be, 'If the (Ohio Education Association) paid money to Stephanie Kunze, do you think she'd change?' I'm guessing probably not."

The debate over ECOT escalated considerably in recent weeks as ODE moved forward with plans to review the schools attendance records. In the latest twist, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported Thursday that ECOT is refusing to release some of the requested data.

As election season progresses, Democrats have increasingly pointed to the majority GOP's ties to ECOT, which has been at the forefront of the Republican-led expansion of the charter industry in the state.

Carrying forward the support of his predecessor, Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) spoke at this year's ECOT graduation ceremony, which in the past has been attended by other prominent Republican officeholders.

The Ohio Democratic Party recently called for a moratorium on state funding to ECOT and a larger investigation into the state's charter school system, stating: "Last year as the Ohio General Assembly considered a bill to reform charter schools, Lager gave nearly \$150,000 to 21 Ohio Republican legislators over the course of two months."

RNC Update: Trump Confirms Pence As VP Pick; 'Never Trump' Efforts Fail...

Donald Trump on Friday became the first presumptive nominee to announce his vice presidential pick via Twitter.

As expected, Mr. Trump confirmed he has tabbed Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate in a tweet shortly before 11 a.m.

Mr. Trump had previously announced he was postponing the New York City press conference where he was expected to make the announcement following a mass killing in Nice, France.

But Gov. Pence faced a noon deadline Friday by which to withdraw from his gubernatorial reelection bid in order for the Indiana Republican Party to name a replacement candidate, meaning the news would have been confirmed then even without an announcement from the Trump campaign.

The formal news conference will now take place at 11 a.m. Saturday in New Jersey.

Word broke Thursday that the first term Indiana governor and former congressman was to be Mr. Trump's No. 2.

Gov. Pence has been engaged in a gubernatorial rematch with Democrat John Gregg - a race that's taken on a new element of competitiveness following Republican discontent over Mr. Pence's handling of last year's so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Mr. Pence, well thought of in religious conservative circles, is seen as an attempt by Mr. Trump to appeal to that voter bloc and to create inroads with Congress, where Gov. Pence served from 2001-2013.

The campaign of DNC presumptive nominee Hillary Clinton immediately blasted the pick in a statement, calling it the "most extreme VP pick in a generation."

Clinton campaign Chairman John Podesta criticized the governor for defunding Planned Parenthood, advocating early on for the Tea Party movement, and signing a religious freedom law that opponents say legalized discrimination against LGBT citizens.

"By picking Mike Pence as his running mate, Donald Trump has doubled down on some of his most disturbing beliefs by choosing an incredibly divisive and unpopular running mate known for supporting discriminatory politics and failed economic policies that favor millionaires and corporations over working families," Mr. Podesta said.

The campaign then promptly organized a media call featuring allied groups criticizing the Republican ticket.

Rules Committee: GOP leaders and Trump loyalists thwarted plans to undermine Mr. Trump's candidacy during a closely watched RNC Rules Committee meeting Thursday.

The morning meeting was delayed several hours while party leaders attempted to negotiate with members of the "Never Trump" movement, but talks soon fell apart. Those members had hoped to change rules to permit delegates to vote their conscience, thereby freeing bound delegates to vote against Mr. Trump on the first ballot.

But as the day wore on it became clear the anti-Trump contingent had too little support for success and lacked the required votes to create a minority report that would have ensured debate on the issue before the full convention next week. Amendment author Kendal Unruh said she would still attempt to earn the required 28 signatures for a minority report.

Following much debate, delegates also shot down a proposed amendment that would have barred lobbyists from being members of the RNC - a change Ohio delegate and lobbyist JoAnn Davidson strongly criticized in remarks before the body.

The committee, which had planned to meet Friday, eventually finished the agenda late Thursday and adjourned. The rules package will be sent to the full convention Monday for consideration.

RNC Chairman Reince Priebus said the meeting "made clear the high level of unity within our Party."

"Grassroots voices from every state and territory have crafted a set of rules which will keep our party strong at the local, state, and national level, and we honored the spirit of democracy by conducting our Rules Committee meeting in a completely open and transparent fashion," he said.

Schedule: The RNC had not yet released an official schedule of events for convention week in Cleveland as of midday Friday, just two days before the RNC is scheduled to kickoff.

But Ohio leaders and others have already announced a slew of ancillary events timed to capitalize on the convention crowd.

The Ohio Republican Party will host daily 8 a.m. breakfasts featuring Treasurer Josh Mandel and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (Monday); U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson and Frank Luntz (Tuesday); U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi and House Speaker Paul Ryan (Wednesday); and Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor, U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, and Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi (Thursday).

The ORP already announced a 3:30 p.m. Tuesday event at the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame to honor Gov. John Kasich.

A sampling of other events during the course of the week includes:

- Sunday - a "Taste of Little Italy" event featuring Attorney General Mike DeWine at 3 p.m. at Tony Brush Park
- Monday - a 3 p.m. campaign event in which Sen. Rob Portman, former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Sen. Joni Ernst will address Sen. Portman volunteers at the Tri-C Metropolitan Campus
- Tuesday, a 10:15 a.m. reception for media members with Sen. Rob Portman; and 11 a.m. welcome tea hosted by the Ohio Federation of Republican Women at the Wyndham Cleveland at Playhouse Square featuring U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)

A partial list of convention speakers was officially released Thursday, although the time and dates of the speeches have yet to be announced by the RNC.

In contrast, the Democratic National Convention Committee announced Friday the headline speakers for the DNC in Philadelphia later this month. They include First Lady Michelle Obama and Sen. Bernie Sanders July 25, President Bill Clinton July 26, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden July 27, and Hillary Clinton and Chelsea Clinton July 28.

A series of musical acts will perform each day of the RNC at Freedom Plaza, which will also include drinks and food. For a complete list, visit the RNC's website. An evening

concert, featuring a variety of "American Idol" and "The Voice" winners will take place at 11 p.m. Tuesday at Gray's Armory.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC, meanwhile, are organizing their own counter events in Cleveland with a slew of press conferences and conference calls aimed at undercutting the RNC. Former Gov. Ted Strickland and the Ohio Democratic Party will also ramp up their attacks on U.S. Sen. Rob Portman as they seek to link him to Mr. Trump.

Other groups have scheduled their own events to criticize Republicans. The Ohio AFL-CIO is set to "welcome" Republicans to the city during a 2 p.m. Sunday event featuring former Gov. Ted Strickland at the Laborers' Local 310 Hall.

ProgressOhio has created a calendar of counter events that includes a "Daily Show" convention sideshow, League of Women Voters voter registration drives, and daily nonviolence training for protestors.

Bob Bennett: The City of Cleveland granted a secondary street name to the intersection of Ontario Street and Huron Road for the duration of the convention. The intersection will be known as Bob Bennett Way in honor of former ORP chairman.

"More than any one person, Bob Bennett steadfastly sought to bring the Convention to Cleveland," Ohio Republican Party Chairman Matt Borges said. "We are sad that he is not here to see the world spotlight on Cleveland, but grateful to the Mayor's office for honoring him in this way so that we can acknowledge his contribution to this week."

Tourism: With the RNC expected to draw 50,000 people to Cleveland, TourismOhio is rolling out all the stops to showcase Ohio, according to a press release.

The group is launching a 360 degree "virtual reality experience" during the convention, to capitalize on visitors and showcase various Ohio hotspots.

The experience will be hosted in a 40-passenger bus located outside the Quicken Loans Arena, according to the release, and will "offer a personal Ohio adventure for participants with a wide range of interests." Those not at the event can take part online.

Some of the featured items include Cedar Point, Hocking Hills, parasailing over Lake Erie, and various Cleveland attractions.

Campus Culture Survey Results To Inform Continued Sexual Violence Prevention, Response Efforts

Students largely believe that their colleges and universities would seriously address sexual assault reports and take corrective action against offenders, according to their responses on surveys disseminated by all of the state's public institutions.

The surveys were an integral piece of the Changing Campus Culture initiative, which the Department of Higher Education launched last fall in an effort to encourage best practices in preventing and responding to sexual violence on campuses. (Survey Results)

Chancellor John Carey urged schools to join the voluntary effort and they responded. All of Ohio's public universities and 80% of private institutions participated in the campus climate survey that asked students to give feedback on how they think sexual assault is being handled and whether they know how to file reports.

Michelle Johnston, the University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College president who has been the face of the initiative, said she's encouraged by the swell of interest in improving sexual violence policies.

The feedback, she said, will be used to steer the other facets of the \$2-million initiative, which include developing comprehensive response policies, adopting survivor-centered responses, launching awareness campaigns and implementing comprehensive training programs.

"With 100% of our public colleges and universities completing a common survey of our students, we have a clearer picture of where we are, collectively and as unique institutions," she said in a statement. "Using this data, we will thoroughly analyze where we are now and will chart a course for where we want to be, in relation to positive and safe environments on our campuses."

Students who responded to the survey agreed, on average, that the university would take sexual assault reports seriously and would support those making the reports. The average respondent also said the university would take corrective action against offenders and would take steps to protect the person making the report from retaliation.

However, students largely disagreed or were neutral with a survey statement that sexual violence is not a problem on their campuses and responses were mixed on a question of understanding institution policies for addressing complaints.

Less than one-third of students reported they don't know the contact information to get on-campus support for sexual violence despite about 13% of them saying they knew women who had been assaulted on campus.

"As I have shared many times before, numbers don't lie, and in the case of sexual violence on our campuses in Ohio, the numbers tell a story that needs a better ending," Ms. Johnston said of why the initiative was launched in October.

In addition to the aggregate data compiled by ODHE, the agency said campuses also administered more comprehensive surveys that will inform policies specific to individual institutions. All public institutions and 88% of private colleges and universities completed those surveys.

Ohio is one of few states in the country that has collected such data, according to ODHE. Much of the work to complete the surveys was done with the help of grants that were funded with a portion of the \$2 million allocated to the initiative in the biennium budget (HB 64).

The grants are also to be used to support putting best practices in place. The overall budget funding has paid for, among other things, webinars and summits to keep institutions engaged in the initiative and collaborating with one another.

"It's exciting to see Ohio dedicating state resources to collect prevalence data, support survivors and prevent sexual violence on college campuses, and partnering with the coalition and rape crisis centers," said Monika Johnson Hostler, the president of the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

"It is through this strategic, long-term investment and the development of partnerships between campuses and community-based programs that we will see long-term positive change for students."

Becker Defends Right-To-Work Bill For Public Sector, Acknowledges Its Passage Is A Longshot

The sponsor of public sector right-to-work legislation defends introducing the controversial measure while acknowledging it is likely dead-on-arrival.

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Twp.) said legislation (HB 583) that would remove any requirement under the Public Employees Collective Bargaining Law that public employees join or pay dues to any employee organization is good policy that will likely not be well-received in the General Assembly.

"It's something my constituents have been demanding for a long time," he said in an interview. "I think it's good for Ohio and hopefully it will be able to move forward."

But We Are Ohio, which was formed in opposition to similar legislation designed to curtail the collective bargaining power of public sector unions, slammed the proposal, saying that workers in state with similar laws make less money and are more prone to on-the-job injuries.

"We believe right-to-work is wrong for Ohio, for working people, for all of us," spokesman Dennis Willard said in an interview.

"There is no support from working people in this state for this extreme idea."

Asked about the likelihood of the bill becoming law, Rep. Becker said he has "no reason to be optimistic."

"I have no feedback one way or the other, but based on the public comments that the governor has made and based on my feelings of what's going on in the Senate or where they might be, I'm not optimistic," he said.

Gov. John Kasich has said repeatedly that right-to-work legislation is not on his agenda in the wake of the public rebuke over similar legislation (SB5, 129th General Assembly) that was struck down by the state's voters in a labor-backed referendum.

John Fourtney, spokesman for the Senate Majority Caucus, said the measure has yet to be vetted by members. However, Senate President Keith Faber (R-Celina) has spoken favorably of eliminating a requirement for union shop employees to pay union dues (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 4, 2013), but has said the support is not there among his members. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, June 3, 2013)

Carolyn Best, spokeswoman for Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville), also said the bill will be discussed further among caucus members in the fall.

The fight over Senate Bill 5 galvanized the labor movement, and Rep. Becker acknowledged that the introduction of similar legislation could provide good political fodder for Democrats in an election year.

"I could see that being a drawback. It just gives the Democrats another talking point and a fundraising letter to send out," he said.

However, he said his measure is different from Senate Bill 5 in that it does not address collective bargaining benefits.

"It is simply an opt-out for public sector employees," he said.

Democrats and labor groups have derided right-to-work legislation for allowing those who opt out of paying union dues to still receive the benefits from negotiated terms of contracts. But Rep. Becker said those who opt-out under his legislation would no longer be protected by unions.

"If they run into some kind of trouble with management, they will not be able to look to the union," he said, adding that it is up to management to decide how to deal with the wages and benefits of non-union employees.

Critics have also said that right-to-work legislation is designed to weaken unions both financially and politically. Rep. Becker, however, also downplayed that critique.

"I wouldn't expect a mass exodus from unions if this were to be signed into law," he said. "If there were a significant exit, it would tell me that there's a problem with the unions. If the only way they can maintain their union through a captive audience then they need to be looking in the mirror."

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper called the bill a "sneak attack on Ohio's working families for the lame duck session."

Education Notes: ECOT Defends Decision To Withhold Log-In Data; Antioch Receives Accreditation; Lawmaker Urges Standards Feedback

A spokesman for the state's largest online charter school is defending the school's refusal to hand over student log-in data requested by the Department of Education.

Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow is not breaking any laws by refusing the data that's at the center of a lawsuit alleging ODE will misuse that information to determine per-pupil funding, school spokesman Neil Clark said.

A Franklin County judge earlier this week denied ECOT's request for a temporary restraining order to stop ODE from moving forward with an audit until after the court rules how student attendance should be used to inform payment totals.

ODE on Monday moved forward with the attendance review, but an email from the agency's attorney to ECOT revealed that the school was refusing to turn over the log-in and log-out information for students.

The agency's attorney Douglas Cole requested access to the documents be immediately provided, but Mr. Clark said that won't be happening.

"We're saying we're not doing anything unless the court tells us to," he said in an interview.

ECOT is interpreting the judge's decision differently than ODE, he said. While it may have allowed the audit to move forward, there is no specification that the review can occur in a way that conflicts with a contract between the school and ODE

The school's lawsuit argues that ODE's decision to not provide funding for students who weren't logging in at least five hours per day is out of line with an agreement that has been in place for previous audits. That contractual agreement states that the school must offer up to 920 hours of learning opportunities - not that students must partake, Mr. Clark said.

"It's just not about did you show up today, it's far more detailed than that; it's how did you get to that 920?" he said.

ODE, meanwhile, is contending that online schools are required by state law to make daily student participation records accessible, regardless of how that information is being used. Mr. Evans said in his email a statute specifying that mandate has been in place since February.

The e-school's governing board was expected to meet Friday - mostly in executive session - to discuss the lawsuit and next steps.

Accreditation: Antioch College this week announced it has been accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

The independent college had spent the last two years pursuing accreditation after reopening in 2011. Originally founded in 1850, it closed in 2008 amid financial troubles and leaders have since been focused on building the historic institution back up.

President Tom Manley said in a video posted to YouTube that the university can now focus its attention on continuing to build a financial foundation and recruit students.

"This great result comes from the hard work of our faculty, our staff, students, our alumni who have been so incredibly supportive and the leadership of our board of trustees," he said. "It is a ringing endorsement of the quality and strength of the education that Antioch college can now offer, and it is a vote of confidence in our ability to offer that education for years to come. "

The commission's decision is retroactive, meaning the recent graduates in the class of 2016 will receive diplomas from an accredited institution, Antioch reported.

Standards Revisions: Rep. Jack Cera is urging educators and the public to provide feedback on proposed revisions to English and math standards.

The Bellaire Democrat said his constituents have shared frustration with the current common core standards, known as Ohio's Learning Standards, and now is the time to recommend changes.

Through 5 p.m. Aug. 1, ODE is accepting public comments on the proposed revisions that were drafted in response to the work of a task force and an earlier public survey.

"I wanted to take the time to share this opportunity with the people of the 96th District because I have received many questions from teachers, parents and administrators about the education department's new revisions," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity for parents to get involved in the process and voice their questions, comments and concerns with those who create these standards directly."

Court Briefs: Dems File Brief In 'Golden Week' Case; 1851 Center Seeks To Stop Eminent Domain For Pipeline; Judicial College Employee Honored

The Ohio Democratic Party has thrown its weight behind an effort to ensure that unregistered voters have a small window prior to the presidential election to register and cast a ballot on the same day.

In a brief filed with U.S. Sixth District Court of Appeals, the party asks the court to uphold a lower court ruling that found the elimination of "Golden Week" to be a violation of the Voting Rights Act.

"Jon Husted and Mike DeWine continue to waste time and money in court, ignoring the Constitution and clear precedent while attempting to make it harder to vote," Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper said in a statement.

"In their appeal, Husted and DeWine blatantly disregard the fact that eliminating an additional week of early voting and same-day registration disproportionately impacted African-American voters. The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Watson found that the elimination of Golden Week disproportionately impacted black voters in Ohio. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 24, 2016)

In a separate decision, Judge Watson denied a request to stay the ruling for the November presidential election while the decision is appealed.

ODP is now accusing Secretary of State Jon Husted of failing to heed the ruling by not providing accurate information for voters about the start of early voting on his office's website.

"Jon Husted has a long history of blatantly ignoring court decisions that have rebuked his attacks on Ohioans' voting rights, and his refusal, once again, to provide accurate information about early voting is plainly designed to mislead Ohioans about their voting rights," Mr. Pepper said.

"If he won't relent and update the misleading information his office is providing, we will take action to ensure he follows the court order restoring 'Golden Week.' The Ohio Democratic Party will always fight to protect the fundamental right to vote for all eligible citizens."

Husted spokesman Josh Eck said the website won't be changed while the case is under appeal.

"The ruling was stayed for the upcoming August Special Election and is currently on appeal ahead of the November election. It would be irresponsible for the Secretary to begin advertising changes that may very well have to undergo further changes before the General Election, as they did in 2012," he said.

"Secretary Husted is committed to making sure all voters know the rules and can participate and we welcome others to join us in pursuing clarity over chaos."

Eminent Domain: The 1851 Center for Constitutional Law has asked the Wood County Common Pleas Court to dismiss more than a dozen eminent domain cases filed by a Texas pipeline company.

The group said in a court filing that Kinder Morgan's eminent domain action against 15 families in the Bowling Green area violates Ohio's constitution because the project for which it is seeking the land is not a "public necessity."

The land would be used for the "Utopia Pipeline," a private ethane pipeline running underground to a Canadian plastics factory.

"Imagine that a private sector lawyer desired to get to the Wood County Court of Common Pleas faster. Could he forcibly appropriate others' private land along the route, from his front door step to the court's parking lot to build a personal road, with no on-ramps or exits, and twenty foot walls on either side, just to represent one very wealthy client who anticipated routinely using his services?" the filing reads.

"If the answer is 'no,' then it must be here as well. And it is 'no,' because no such road would be a public use, even if the lawyer appealed to the public interest in 'justice' and 'market demand for lawyers.'"

Maurice Thompson, the group's executive director, said in a statement the proposed eminent domain action is "redistribution of wealth of the worst sort."

"The abuse along the Utopia Pipeline is a prime example of what can happen when legislators attempt to auction off Ohioans' property rights to the highest bidder," he said. "Ultimately, the Ohio Constitution prevents this abuse, and we will prevail in court. But statutes inviting this sort of behavior should be amended or repealed."

Honor: A long-time employee of the Ohio Judicial College has been nationally recognized for his work, the high court reported.

Kristopher Steele, an education program manager, received the 2016 Perkins Award from the National Association for Court Management

"It's because of employees like Kristopher that the Supreme Court has an outstanding reputation nationally," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in a statement. "I have received multiple compliments about the Judicial College programs and our staff from my colleagues when attending national meetings."

"I am honored to win this award and will accept it on behalf of all the other dedicated personnel working behind the scenes at courts to help improve services to their communities," Mr. Steele said.

Agency Briefs: AG's Office Doles Out Funding To Rape Crisis Centers; BWC; SOS; ODNR; PUCO; Senate

Attorney General Mike DeWine on Friday announced that 29 rape crisis centers across the state will receive more than \$1.4 million in grant funding.

"We owe it to survivors of sexual assault to make sure they receive comprehensive support after an attack," AG DeWine said. "These funds will go toward helping agencies across the state to provide quality, compassionate care to those who need it."

The following 28 agencies will all receive \$45,803:

- Abuse and Rape Crisis Center of Warren County
- Alive, Inc., Steubenville
- Appleseed Community Mental Health Center, Ashland
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Stark County
- Compass Rape Crisis Center, Tuscarawas County
- Compass Family and Community Services, Youngstown
- Council on Domestic Violence/Open Arms, Findlay
- Crime Victim Services, Lima
- Edna Brooks Foundation/My Sister's Place, Athens
- Erie County Prosecutor
- Eve, Inc., Marietta
- Haven of Hope, Cambridge
- Helpline of Delaware and Morrow Counties
- Highland County Domestic Violence Task Force
- Lake County Prosecutor
- New Directions, Mt. Vernon
- OneEighty, Wayne County

- Project Woman, Springfield
- Rape Crisis Center of Medina and Summit Counties
- Sexual Assault Response Network of Central Ohio
- The Cocoon, Bowling Green
- The Domestic Violence Shelter, Mansfield
- The Nord Center, Lorain
- Townhall II, Kent
- Tri-County Help Center, St. Clairsville
- Women Helping Women, Cincinnati
- YWCA of Northwest Ohio, Toledo

Another \$142,500 will be distributed to the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

BWC: As the Bureau of Workers' Compensation transitions to prospective billing, it is asking private employers to report their actual payroll for the policy year ended June 30 and to reconcile any differences in premium paid prior to the closure of the "True-up" window on Aug. 15.

Employers will be removed from their current rating plan or discount program if it BWC does not receive a payroll true-up by the due date. Outstanding payroll true-ups will render the employer ineligible for participation in future rating plans or discount programs until all outstanding payroll true-ups are complete.

"This step is an important part of BWC's ongoing efforts to modernize operations and provide better service to Ohio's employers," BWC Administrator/CEO Sarah Morrison said in a statement. "It's also necessary for BWC to accurately calculate an employer's premium and for employers to maintain their participation in current rating plan or discount programs."

The transition, according to BWC, has allowed it to reduce base rates and offer employers more flexible payment options and the ability to better forecast their costs.

True-ups can be completed online and if done through the web qualifies eligible employers for a 1% premium rebate, up to a \$2,000 maximum.

The payroll true-up may also be completed through the call center at 1-800-644-6292.

Secretary of State: Jon Husted announced 8,480 new state business filings in June. The figure represents an increase over the same period on 2015, when 8,151 entities were formed.

June was again a record setting month for business filing; 4,300 more entities have filed so far in 2016 than at the same point in 2015.

New filings increased 21.8% from 2010-2015.

Department of Natural Resources: A total of 2,192 permits have been issued for drilling on the Utica Shale as of July 9, according to data from the Division of Oil and Gas Resources.

A total of 1,756 wells have been drilled, and 1,334 wells are in production, according to the ODNR.

The department also announced that Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor attended the opening ceremonies for the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation National Championship at the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo.

PUCO: The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is remind consumers that that they may be eligible for budget billing.

The program, offered by Ohio's regulated electric and natural gas distribution companies, allows consumers to avoid spikes in billion in the summer and winter months.

General Assembly: Legislative staff and members of the Senate collected more than 33,000 pounds of canned food for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank.

The internal food drive also generated \$3,000 in donations, which will provide 39,500 meals to local residents.

From Congress: Brown, Portman Applaud U.S. Attorney Confirmation; Kaptur Applauds Funding Awards; Gibbs; Ryan

Ohio's senators this week applauded the confirmation of Carole Rendon as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio.

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Avon) and U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) recommended Ms. Rendon, a former first assistant U.S. attorney, for the post last month.

"No one is more qualified to serve as U.S. Attorney for the Northern District than Carole Rendon," Sen. Brown said in a statement. "Now that she is confirmed she can continue her work on behalf of Ohioans."

Sen. Portman said, "Carole Rendon is a proud Ohioan, an accomplished lawyer, and a dedicated public servant. She has already served Ohio with distinction for seven years, and I'm pleased that she will continue as U.S. Attorney for Northern Ohio. I am grateful to my colleagues for making the right decision and confirming her nomination."

Border: Sen. Brown urged customs and border protection to launch an investigation into produce made using child and forced labor.

Joining with Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), he wrote to CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske decrying a loophole that allows some of those products into the country if there is not a sufficient supply.

"We urge you to continue that dialogue with regular meetings between NGOs, as well as other stakeholders, and CBP, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the State Department, and the Department of Labor and a meeting in the very near term to discuss issues related to regulations. Increased communication will lead to more successful petitions and better enforcement against forced labor imports," the senators wrote.

Funding: U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Toledo) applauded several instances of new funding awarded to her district this week.

First she welcomed news of a \$700 million retooling of Toledo's Jeep North Assembly Plant.

The project, which will equip the plant for production of the next generation of Jeep Wrangler, was announced this week by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and promises 700 new jobs.

"This is almost beyond belief, given where we were eight short years ago," Rep. Kaptur said. "For seventy-five years Toledans have manufactured Wranglers. FCA's investment today will ensure this legacy remains for years to come."

The Cleveland Hopkins International Airport will also receive \$22.1 million in federal funds for improvements including safety upgrades and new snow removal equipment.

Lastly, Rep. Kaptur announced the award of a \$3.1 million grant to the Lorain Fire Department and the city of Lorain aimed at addressing a staffing crisis.

The funds, from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program, aim to fix the fallout of the recent layoffs of 22 members of the city's fire department.

"This is obviously great news," Rep. Kaptur said. "Credit should go to the Lorain firefighters, who have actively organized in recent weeks and made their case effectively and persuasively, and to Lorain Mayor Chase Ritenauer and Lorain Fire Chief Tom Brown. Their diligence in helping to find a solution brought about this two-year solution to an immediate problem."

Zika: U.S. Rep. Bob Gibbs and colleagues urged President Barack Obama to expand protections against the Zika virus. The Obama Administration has opposed a resolution that would permit mosquito control programs to implement control plans without duplicative permits, Rep. Gibbs said.

"I want to know why it is acceptable for Puerto Rico to increase their defense against Zika, but not the rest of the United States?" Rep. Gibbs asked in a statement. "All Americans should be protected against the spread of Zika and I encourage the president to change his mind and allow the increased use of live-saving pesticides and give pregnant women safety from this terrible illness. If the President ends his opposition to the Conference report, Congress can take swift action to protect those most vulnerable to Zika."

An amendment on Zika from U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan (D-Niles), meanwhile, failed with a 20-29 committee vote. It would have stricken a funding cap of \$461 million on bilateral family planning and created a funding floor of \$585 million to administer anti-Zika programs.

"I am deeply disappointed that House Republicans rejected this amendment and have decided to turn their back on thousands of men and women struggling through this crisis," Rep. Ryan said.

Abortions: Rep. Gibbs applauded the House passage of legislation aimed at protecting health care professionals who refuse to participate in providing abortions.

The lawmaker supported the bill, saying it protects the religious freedom of those professionals.

"The House's vote today gives those willing to exercise their beliefs the option of using the court system if their employment is in jeopardy, instead of being at the mercy of a government bureaucracy," he said. "It is critical that we not only protect the unborn, but protect those whose livelihoods may be at stake for providing that protection."

Trade: An amendment from Rep. Ryan that would require an impact analysis on free trade agreements on wages and the demand for educator workers passed a House committee this week by voice vote.

The amendment is to a measure that would require the Bureau of Labor Statistics to submit a report on the impact of such agreements on the American workforce.

"All that you need to do is look at the shuttered factories and shattered communities across Ohio to see the devastating affect free trade agreements have had across our country," he said. "I am proud that my amendment passed and we will soon be able to know the true cost of these deals to our nation," Mr. Ryan said.

Israel: Sen. Portman and Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) released a bipartisan report from the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations examining government grants to OneVoice, which is a non-governmental organization in Israel and Palestine.

The report examines the nearly \$350,000 in grants received from the State Department to foster peace between the two countries. The report determined the NGO complied with the department's terms but shortly after the terms expired used the funds to support a political campaign.

"The State Department ignored warnings signs and funded a politically active group in a politically sensitive environment with inadequate safeguards," Sen. Portman said. "It is completely unacceptable that U.S. taxpayer dollars were used to build a political campaign infrastructure that was deployed - immediately after the grant ended - against the leader of our closest ally in the Middle East. American resources should be used to help our allies in the region, not undermine them."

SNAP: Rep. Ryan this week sought to push for increased digital access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"If we continue on our current trajectory, we will have an adult obesity rate of 60% within 15 years," he said. "In a country, where 23.5 million people live in food deserts, we cannot allow the status quo to continue and must find new ways for all Americans to have access to fresh, healthy food."

Gongwer's Ohio Convention Coverage

Gongwer News Service's planned coverage of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland next week will include regular updates to the website during the day.

Significant breaking news will be distributed through email alerts but subscribers can check the website throughout each day of the convention for updates focusing on activities of the Ohio delegation and other events.

Subscribers may also follow reporter Mikel Livingston and Gongwer on Twitter for links to those updates on our website. Mike's account is @mikellivingston and the main account is @gongwer.

Attorney General's Opinion

No. 2016-023, Requested by Fairfield County Prosecuting Attorney Gregg Marx.
SYLLABUS:

1. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by Violet Township may provide medical services in nonemergency situations pursuant to R.C. 4765.361, so long as the medical services are performed under the direction of the emergency medical technician's medical director or cooperating physician advisory

board, are within the scope of practice of the emergency medical technician, and do not conflict with the emergency medical services described in R.C. 4765.37, R.C. 4765.38, R.C. 4765.39, and the rules adopted by the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services.

2. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township is immune from civil liability for injury, death, or loss to person or property resulting from the provision of medical services in a nonemergency situation unless the services are provided in a manner that constitutes wanton or willful misconduct, the services are manifestly outside the scope of the emergency medical technician's employment, or the services are performed with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner.

3. An emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by a township may not provide medical services on a routine, day-to-day basis outside the boundaries of the township when revenue from a township tax levy pays the emergency medical technician's compensation, unless the township has entered into a contract with another political subdivision pursuant to R.C. 9.60 or R.C. 505.44, or the township provides the medical services to the territory of another township or municipal corporation as a member of a joint fire district pursuant to R.C. 505.371, a fire and ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.375, or a joint ambulance district pursuant to R.C. 505.71.

4. A board of township trustees may establish reasonable charges for the use of medical services that are provided by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township in nonemergency situations and may collect those charges from a private hospital system that agrees to pay those charges on behalf of the recipient of the medical services.

5. A board of township trustees may contract with a private hospital system to provide medical services in nonemergency situations by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic employed by the township to patients of the hospital who are residents and nonresidents of the township, so long as the private hospital system is a nonprofit corporation and the medical services are performed within the territory of the township.

6. A contract between the Violet Township Board of Trustees and a private hospital system for the provision of medical services in nonemergency situations may provide that the private hospital system will pay the township a sum of money for each visit performed by an emergency medical technician-basic, an emergency medical technician-intermediate, and an emergency medical technician-paramedic pursuant to the contract and that emergency medical technicians will provide medical services in nonemergency situations during the emergency medical technicians' regular work hours.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Wednesday, July 20

Rail Development Commission, 1980 West Broad Street, Rm. GA, Columbus, 11 a.m.

State Board of Education, 25 S. Front St., Columbus, 3 p.m. (Dropout Prevention and Recovery Study Committee)

Thursday, July 21

Board of Building Standards, Division of Industrial Compliance, 6606 Tussing Road, Training Room 1, Reynoldsburg, 9 a.m. (Code Committee)

Cemetery Dispute Resolution Commission, Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, 77 South High Street, 22nd Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

Supplemental Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 27

Beginning of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, August 7

End of Ohio State Fair

Sunday, October 2

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) fall fest fundraiser, Peterson Farm, 5564 Grassy Branch Rd., Sabina, 4 p.m., (\$50 per Family | \$25 per Person to Peterson for Good Government)

Thursday, October 20

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) shooting fundraiser, Vandalia Range and Armory, 100 Corp Center Drive, Vandalia, 5:30 p.m., (\$1000 Event Sponsor, includes up to 6 participants; \$500 Lane Sponsor, includes up to 4 participants; \$150 per couple | \$100 per person | \$50 Dinner only to Citizens for Bill Beagle)

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, July 16-Monday, July 18

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

No agency meetings scheduled.

Event Planner

Saturday, July 16

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention luncheon, Westin, 21 E. Fifth St., Cincinnati, 11:30 a.m., (Featuring U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee)

Gov. John Kasich to speak at 107th NAACP Convention, Duke Energy Convention Center, Hall A, 525 Elm St., Cincinnati, 6:30 p.m.

Ohio Legislative Black Caucus 2016 convention dinner gala, Duke Energy Center, Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., (Featuring Vernon Jordan)

Monday, July 18

Republican National Convention, Cleveland

17 S. High St., Suite 630

Columbus Ohio 43215

Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Alan Miller, Vice President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Melissa Dilley, Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Staff Writers

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From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 7:41 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: U.S. will affirm its prohibition on medical marijuana

NCSL Today | Live from Chicago



Wisconsin Speaker of the House Robin Vos joins us in this eVideo update to talk about the NCSL business meeting that he presided over as well as some of the other sessions he attended while in Chicago. He also discusses next year's plans for the Summit in Boston



Election 2016 with Mara Liasson of Fox News and NPR

Whether it's a nail-biter or a landslide, the 2016 election will bring tremendous change to the presidency, Congress and the states.

TOP NEWS Aug. 11, 2016

U.S. will affirm its prohibition on medical marijuana today

The Washington Post

The government on Thursday will refuse again to allow the use of marijuana for medical purposes, reaffirming its conclusion that the drug's therapeutic value has not been proved scientifically, according to government officials, and defying a growing clamor to legalize it for the treatment of a variety of conditions.

NCSL resolution urging feds to remove marijuana from Schedule 1 list cited.

As technology evolves, public disclosure gets more complicated for state legislatures

RouteFifty.com

As compliance with public disclosure laws becomes increasingly complicated in an era of cloud servers, smartphones and messaging apps, a panel of experts Monday offered a window into the sometimes tricky terrain state legislatures navigate when maintaining and releasing records. **Coverage of NCSL Legislative Summit session.**

State governments eye cash from fantasy sports

The Hill

State legislators across the country are preparing for a nationwide battle over the booming and largely unregulated daily fantasy sports industry.

Appeals court stays ruling on Wisconsin voter ID law

Associated Press

A federal appeals court on Wednesday blocked a pathway for

Mara Liasson, political pundit for Fox News Sunday and NPR, gives us the insider's view on 2016 politics and what it all may mean during a 12:15 p.m. general session.



NCSL applauds appeals court decision on FCC

NCSL recognizes outstanding legislative documents

New York Senate website takes top award at Summit



Who should elect the president?

Wisconsin residents without the required photo identification to vote in the presidential election just three months away.
NCSL resources on voter ID.

Judge blocks West Virginia right-to-work law

Charleston Gazette-Mail

In issuing the injunction, Judge Jennifer Bailey said that until legal questions about the law can be resolved, enforcement of it could cause irreparable harm to unions and union workers.

Are animal hoarders criminals?

Stateline

Reports of animal hoarding are on the rise, leaving states and localities deciding whether to prosecute or deal with the underlying mental problem that leads to it.

Have you ever tried to explain to someone who does not follow politics how we elect the president? You always get to that uncomfortable moment where you have to say: No, voters don't actually elect the president, the members of the Electoral College elect the president.



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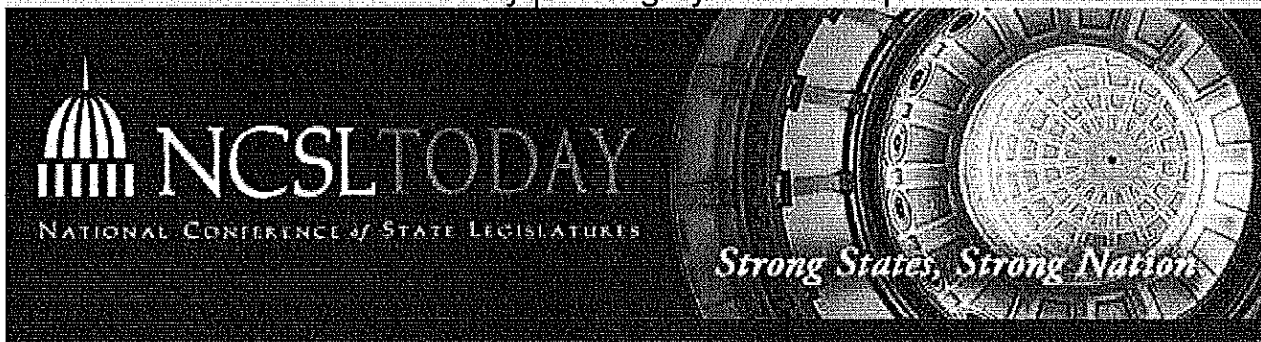
From: NCSL TODAY

Sent: Monday, October 10, 2016 7:53 AM

To: Derksen, Nick

Subject: Unions fight ballot efforts to constitutionalize right to work

NCSL Today | [Manage your subscription](#)



TOP NEWS Oct. 10, 2016

Unions fight ballot efforts to constitutionalize right to work

Governing

Right-to-work laws, which limit the power of labor unions, have been around for decades. Now business leaders and Republican lawmakers in two states want to make them permanent.

The politics of social media

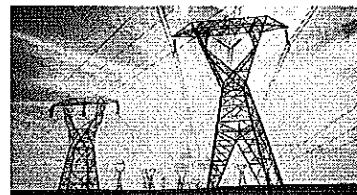
State Net Capitol Journal

Like it or not, social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, Periscope and Snapchat have become an indispensable part of political campaigns and the vast majority of lawmakers' offices.

Political battle over lawmakers' pay heads to Minnesota voters

Associated Press

Far below the ballot ovals for the presidential race, Minnesota



Energy, environment transportation federal newsletters

These newsletters include news stories, legislation, events, resources and more from federal and state agencies, legislatures, the federal administration and other policy stakeholders.

voters will answer a critical question that has vexed state lawmakers for years: Should they be setting their own pay?

California recycling crisis sends billions of bottles, cans into landfill

Bloomberg

About 90 percent of the 8 billion soda cans sold in California every year get turned in for recycling and a 5¢ refund. But cheaper commodity prices, plus lower Chinese demand for America's used bottles and cans, have upended the economics of the state's recycling industry.

Obama administration is quietly delaying thousands of deportation cases

The New York Times

The Obama administration is delaying deportation proceedings for recent immigrants in cities across the United States, allowing more than 56,000 of those who fled Central America since 2014 to remain in the country legally for several more years.

New York state to eliminate cash option for paying tolls

The New York Times

Instead of charging drivers who are stopped at toll plazas, the authority will use sensors and cameras to automatically charge cars that have been equipped with E-ZPass; those without it will have their license plates recorded by camera, and a bill will be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.



Webinar Oct. 20: Infant and early childhood mental health

Capitol to Capitol

Bill information service training Oct. 18



State legislators are dropping and giving 'em 22

State legislators around the country are dropping and giving 22 pushups in an effort to raise awareness about veterans' suicide prevention.



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From: Westlake, Libby
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 5:11 AM
To: Westlake, Libby
Subject: E-Clips for 1/13/2017

HOUSE E-CLIPS

1/13/2017



KASICH OUTLINES 2017 VISION IN FACE OF BUDGET SHORTFALL

Gov. John Kasich says he is creating a position for a chief innovation officer to pursue and oversee developments in emerging technologies, such as education technology, robotics and data analytics.



KASICH NOT BACKING OFF TOUGH GRADUATION STANDARDS

Despite a Statehouse protest by Ohio superintendents two months ago, Gov. John Kasich said Thursday that he won't back down from tough new state high-school graduation requirements.

ANTI-DEATH PENALTY COALITION URGES OHIO NOT TO RESUME EXECUTIONS

At the exact hour a convicted Ohio killer was originally to be executed Thursday, opponents of capital punishment gathered at the Statehouse to urge state officials not to resume lethal injection after a three-year hiatus.

UTILITIES PUSH FOR TOUGH REGULATIONS ON SUBMETER COMPANIES

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio plans to regulate submeter companies, but the state's largest electricity utilities say that regulators are not going far enough to rein in abusive practices by these companies.

SPEAKER ROSENBERGER APPOINTS HOUSE COMMITTEE LEADERS

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, R-Clarksville, has named committee chairs and vice-chairs for the 2017-18 legislative session.

THE PLAIN DEALER

BUSINESS LEADERS ON SCHOOL BOARDS AMONG IDEAS GOV. JOHN KASICH PLANS TO PUT IN THE STATE BUDGET

Gov. John Kasich on Thursday dropped a few more hints about the policy changes tucked into his last two-year state budget.

OHIO DEATH PENALTY OPPONENTS URGE END TO EXECUTIONS OF MENTALLY ILL

Ohio death penalty opponents on Thursday urged Gov. John Kasich and state lawmakers not to resume executions next month after three years of delays.

FORMER YOUNGSTOWN MAYOR JAY WILLIAMS CONSIDERS RUN FOR GOVERNOR

Jay Williams, the former Youngstown mayor and outgoing Obama administration official, is getting serious about a run for Ohio governor in 2018.

THE ENQUIRER

RIGHT-TO-WORK WEAKENS UNIONS, BUT WILL IT BRING JOBS?

Unions terrify some employers.

THE BLADE (One of America's Great Newspapers)

AREA LAWMAKERS TO HELP LEAD STATE HOUSE COMMITTEES

State Rep. Steven Arndt (R., Port Clinton) will be the sole state House committee chairman from northwest Ohio in this two-year session.

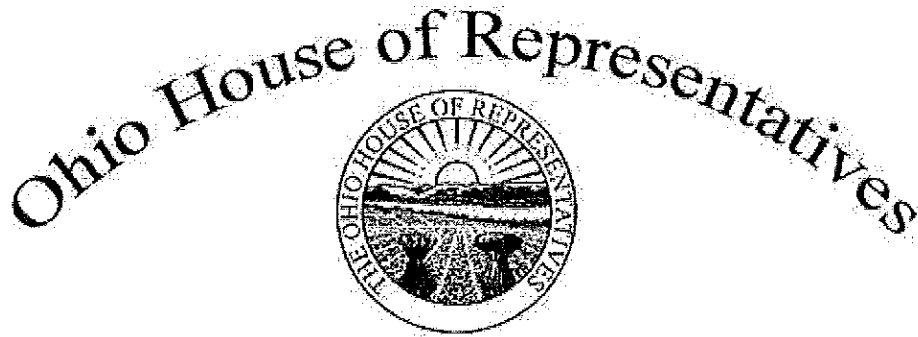
KASICH SAYS HE CAN FILL POTENTIAL \$1 BILLION BUDGET HOLE

Gov. John Kasich will propose a solution to a potential \$1 billion hole in the state's next two-year budget as the federal government closes a sales tax loophole exploited by Ohio to draw down more Medicaid matching funds.

FORMER LEGISLATOR SEEKS NEW TRIAL REGARDING FELONY THEFT CONVICTION

A former state legislator who was kicked out of office after being convicted on a felony theft charge in Danbury Township has requested a new trial in his case following denial of appeals for the original trial.

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 11:41 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

MEMORANDUM

To: GOP House Members

From: Representative John Becker

Date: January 13, 2017

RE: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be reintroducing a public sector right-to-work bill. This bill was previously introduced in the 131st General Assembly as HB 583.

There is a national trend of states moving to implement right-to-work laws. With Kentucky being the 27th state to continue that trend, it's time Ohio steps up to the plate. All of Ohio's neighboring states, with the exception of Pennsylvania, have right-to-work laws on the books.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov. The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, **Monday, January 30, 2017**. Thank you for your consideration.

Roanna Thawley

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

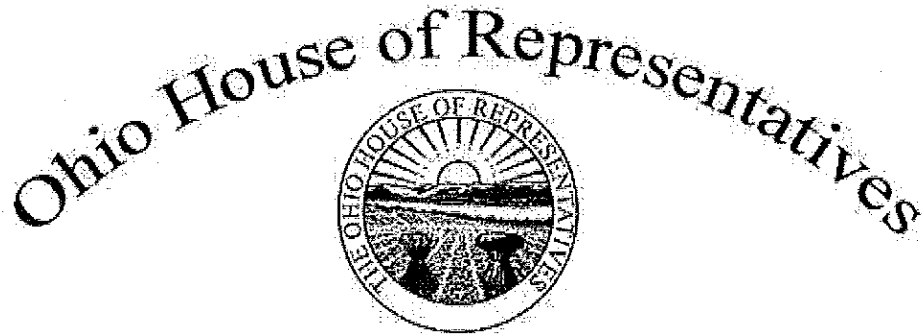
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:34 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

****REMINDER: Deadline to co-sponsor is January 30th at 5 PM****



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Ohio's 65th House District

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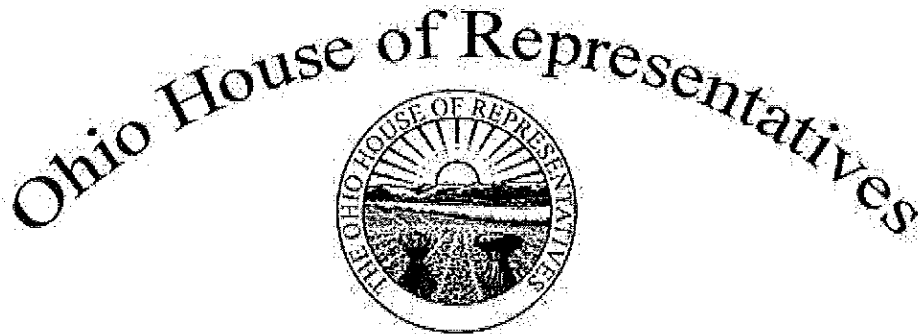
77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

From: Thawley, Roanna
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:33 AM
To: Thawley, Roanna
Subject: REMINDER Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

****REMINDER: Deadline to co-sponsor is TODAY at 5 PM.****



Representative John Becker
Ohio's 65th House District

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Roanna Thawley

Legislative Aide

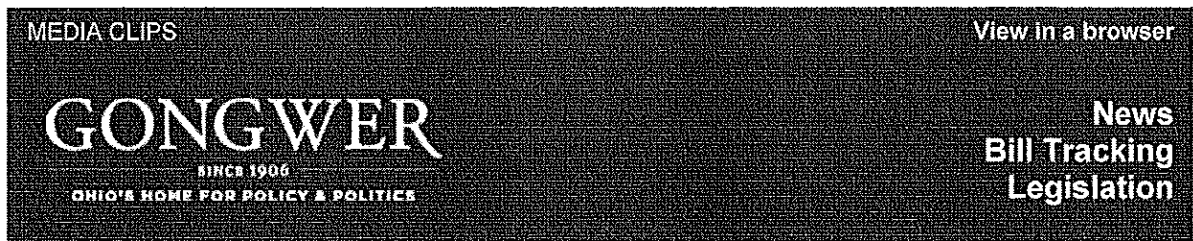
State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

77 S. High Street, 12th Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:29 AM
To: Derksen, Nick
Subject: Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, February 2



NEWS

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**Governor: Ohio must embrace future, change Rust Belt image (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/2/2017)**

**With \$2.6M, Ohio creates network to support violence victims (Associated Press, 2/2/2017)**

**Kasich: Losing Amazon isn't 'game over' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2017)**

**Sanctuary city 'over our dead body,' Mandel says (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2017)**

**Sen. Brown blocks committee vote on Trump's Treasury nominee (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2017)**

**'Right to work' won't be popular in Ohio, state lawmakers say (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2017)**

**New Ohio GOP Chairwoman Jane Timken's message for Kasich allies: 'I will not keep score' (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2017)**

**Ohio to appeal court ruling preserving Cleveland's Fannie Lewis Law (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2017)**

**Sherrod Brown stalls Steve Mnuchin, Josh Mandel slams sanctuary cities: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2017)**

**Callers jam Senate phone lines with concerns about Trump nominees (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2017)**

**Kasich administration makes final push to Medicaid managed care (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2017)**

**Kasich says state did all it could to land \$1.4 billion Amazon hub (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2017)**

**Kasich tax plan faces questions from House panel (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2017)**

**The Daily Briefing: David Pepper, Jane Timken differ on which party has more energy (Columbus Dispatch, 2/2/2017)**

**Call volume overwhelms Senate switchboard (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2017)**

**Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley 'considering' run for governor (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2017)**

**Kasich gives his take on the Wright Brothers, Trump and Ohio's image (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2017)**

**Ohio Gov John Kasich reacts to loss of 300 Amazon jobs to Kentucky (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2017)**

**Ohio House speaker rents luxury condo from top GOP donor (Dayton Daily News, 2/2/2017)**

**Budget chief: Kasich conservative on growth (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2017)**

**Portman, Brown react to Supreme Court pick (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2017)**

**Senator's war chest ahead of 2012 pace (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2017)**



## EDITORIALS

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**Cities, refugees and the president's flawed executive order (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/2/2017)**

**Mandel: We are at war with radical Islam (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/2/2017)**

**Sen. Rob Portman must lead in legislative efforts to counter President Trump's dangerously expansive travel ban: editorial (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/2/2017)**

**Committed to the law (Toledo Blade, 2/2/2017)**

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 5:54 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/2/2017

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/02/2017



### **JUDGE BLOCKS OHIO LAW THAT WOULD BAN SOME LOCAL HIRING RULES**

A judge has blocked an Ohio law that would have barred local hiring regulations for public projects, such as Cleveland's requirement that city residents get to work on certain projects.



### **CRITICS SLAM KASICH'S FLAT-FUNDING OF DRUG-ADDICTION FIGHT**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich stood firm Wednesday against charges from lawmakers and others that the state is not doing enough to tackle the nation's leading number of drug-overdose deaths, principally from opioids.

### **KASICH TAX PLAN FACES QUESTIONS FROM HOUSE PANEL**

State Budget Director Tim Keen spent about four hours in front of the House Finance Committee Wednesday testifying and answering a variety of questions about Gov. John Kasich's new two-year budget.

### **KASICH SAYS STATE DID ALL IT COULD TO LAND \$1.4 BILLION AMAZON HUB**

Ohio may have landed three Amazon data centers and two distribution centers in the Columbus area, but Gov. John Kasich today lamented one that got away.

### **KASICH ADMINISTRATION MAKES FINAL PUSH TO MEDICAID MANAGED CARE**

Gov. John Kasich plans to move the last group of Medicaid beneficiaries into private managed care plans, more than 150,000 mostly elderly and disabled Ohioans receiving long-term care services at home or in nursing facilities.

### **THE DAILY BRIEFING: DAVID PEPPER, JANE TIMKEN DIFFER ON WHICH PARTY HAS MORE ENERGY**

The first joint appearance of Ohio's current major political party leaders was highlighted by an energy debate.

### **EDITORIAL: A CHECKUP FOR FISCAL HEALTH**

No one can see the future, but there are ways to get an inkling of where things are headed.

**DAYTON MAYOR NAN WHALEY 'CONSIDERING' RUN FOR GOVERNOR**

Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley says she is considering a run for governor in 2018.

**KASICH GIVES HIS TAKE ON THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, TRUMP AND OHIO'S IMAGE**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich seemed to be in a feisty mood Wednesday when he fielded questions from the press at a forum sponsored by the Associated Press in Columbus.

**OHIO GOV JOHN KASICH REACTS TO LOSS OF 300 AMAZON JOBS TO KENTUCKY**

Gov. John Kasich said Amazon picked northern Kentucky over Wilmington in large part because the airport in Covington has plenty of capacity and the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky metro area has the workforce.

**THE PLAIN DEALER**

**OHIO GOV. JOHN KASICH PROPOSES ADDING BUSINESS EXPERTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS**

A proposal from Ohio Gov. John Kasich would add three non-voting members to every local school board to keep them apprised of the needs of the business community.

**NEW OHIO GOP CHAIRWOMAN JANE TIMKEN'S MESSAGE FOR KASICH ALLIES: 'I WILL NOT KEEP SCORE'**

New Ohio Republican Party Chairwoman Jane Timken pledged Wednesday not to retaliate against those who did not back her campaign.

**OHIO TO APPEAL COURT RULING PRESERVING CLEVELAND'S FANNIE LEWIS LAW**

The state will appeal a Cuyahoga County court decision that upheld Cleveland's Fannie Lewis Law guaranteeing that local residents get a percentage of work on public projects.

**'RIGHT TO WORK' WON'T BE POPULAR IN OHIO, STATE LAWMAKERS SAY**

As congressional Republicans consider a national "right to work" law, Ohio state legislators said Ohioans don't necessarily want anti-union legislation.

**OHIO'S 2018 U.S. SENATE RACE ON TRACK TO BE EXPENSIVE: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP**

The Ohio U.S. Senate race in 2018 is on track to get expensive. Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci of Ohio appears to be on the path to run for governor.

**THE ENQUIRER**

### **KASICH: LOSING AMAZON HUB ISN'T 'GAME OVER' FOR WILMINGTON**

Better job applicants and facilities led Amazon to choose Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport over Wilmington for its worldwide air cargo hub, Ohio Gov. John Kasich told reporters Wednesday.

## **THE BLADE**

One of America's Great Newspapers

### **BUDGET CHIEF: KASICH CONSERVATIVE ON GROWTH**

Gov. John Kasich has warned against lawmakers' using rosier revenue projections to justify additional spending over the next two years, but a legislative agency on Wednesday estimated that revenues will climb at a faster pace than his administration has predicted.

## ***The Vindicator***

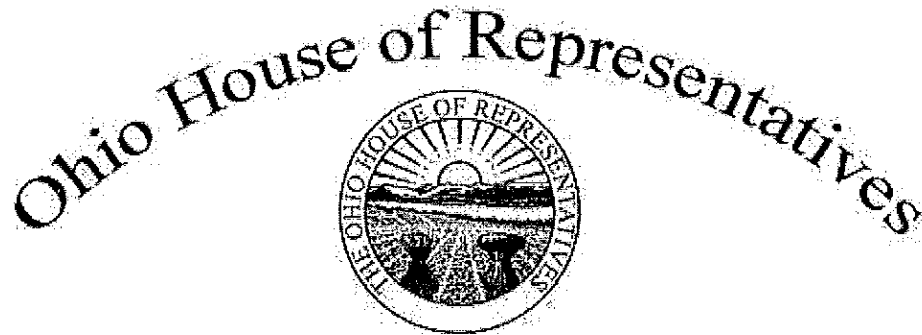
### **VALLEY LEGISLATORS APPOINTED AS RANKING DEMS TO STATE HOUSE.**

#### **SENATE COMMITTEES**

Three Ohio House Democrats who represent the Mahoning Valley were named as ranking minority members on committees in the state Legislature.

**From:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:08 AM  
**To:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Subject:** DEADLINE EXTENDED Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

**\*\*Deadline extended to Monday, February 6, 2017 @  
5 PM.\*\***



**Representative John Becker**  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** GOP House Members  
**From:** Representative John Becker  
**Date:** February 2, 2017  
**RE:** Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

I will soon be reintroducing a public sector right-to-work bill. This bill was previously introduced in the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly as HB 583.

There is a national trend of states moving to implement right-to-work laws. With Kentucky being the 27<sup>th</sup> state to continue that trend, it's time Ohio steps up to the plate. All of Ohio's neighboring states, with the exception of Pennsylvania, have right-to-work laws on the books.

This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or [Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov). The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Monday, February 6, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

*Roanna Thawley*

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

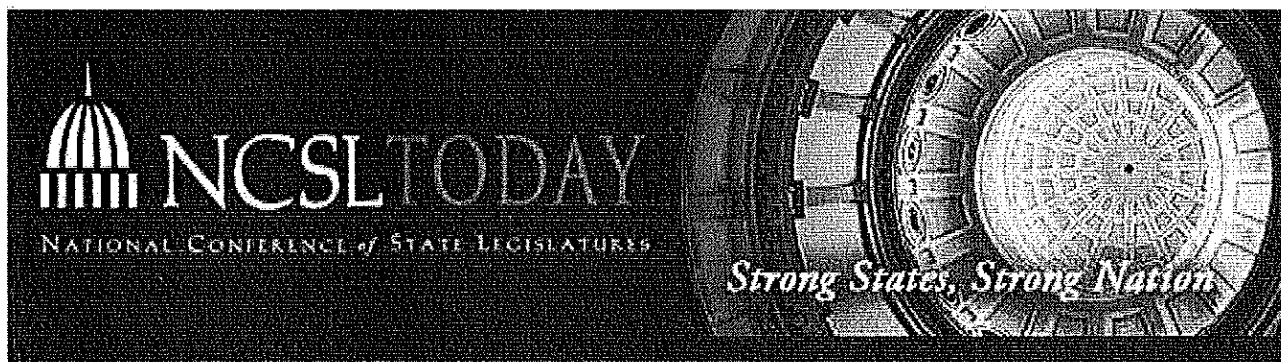
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

[roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov)

**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Friday, February 3, 2017 9:33 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** What's driving population decline in more states?

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## TOP NEWS Feb. 3, 2017

### What's driving population decline in more states?

*Stateline*

More states lost population last year than in 30 years. Some of the loss can be attributed to national demographic trends --- but not all of it.

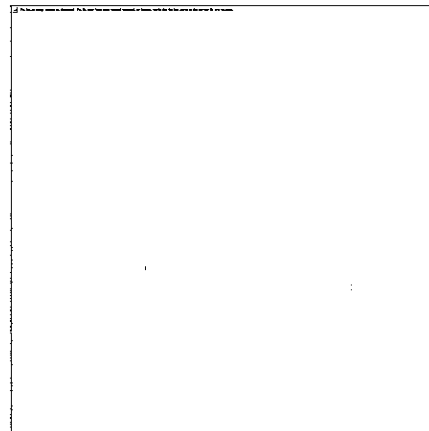
### Bipartisan Tennessee bill would require safety restraint systems in all school buses

*Chattanooga Times Free Press*

Beginning July 1, 2018, the bill will require safety restraint systems on any Tennessee school bus ordered or purchased by a public or private school or system intended to transport students, as well as for extracurricular activities and other school events. **NCSL data cited.**  
NCSL resources on school bus safety.

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### A Rocky Road: new issue of State Legislatures magazine

Broadly speaking, public-private partnerships, known as P3s, are agreements in which a private-sector party provides a service

## **U.S. starts year with jobs surge but pay gains are weak**

*The New York Times*

Employers added a healthy 227,000 workers to their payrolls in January, the government reported on Friday. But despite a surge of local minimum-wage increases, average hourly earnings grew by only 0.1 percent.

## **Missouri lawmakers send right-to-work law to governor's desk**

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

A moment long dreaded by the state's labor unions and their supporters arrived on Thursday, as Missouri lawmakers sent a right-to-work proposal to a Republican governor who has promised for months that he'd sign it. NCSL resources on right-to-work laws.

## **Kansas exceeds January revenue estimate, lawmakers mull how to close shortfall**

*Topeka Capitol-Journal*

Kansas took in about \$24 million more than anticipated in January, the third month in a row in which revenue has met or exceeded expectations, though the windfall put only a small dent in the state's budget shortfall.

## **California lawmakers can't figure out what to do with Airbnb**

*The Los Angeles Times* = A

Short-term rental legislation has failed in Sacramento for multiple reasons, those on all sides of the issue said, including cities' reluctance to let the state involve itself in local tax collection and the relative political strengths of both

that is traditionally delivered by a public agency. In terms of infrastructure, a private partner typically assumes significant responsibility and risk over a project's design, construction or operation.

## **Federal action and health system changes**

## **'Our American States': a new NCSL podcast**

## **Capitol-to-Capitol state-federal newsletter**

## **Preventing opioid misuse; legislative trends and predictions**

As overdose deaths from opioids—including prescription drugs—continue to rise, strategies to confront the epidemic are likely to stay at the forefront during the 2017 legislative sessions.



Airbnb and labor unions, which are typically the industry's most powerful adversaries.



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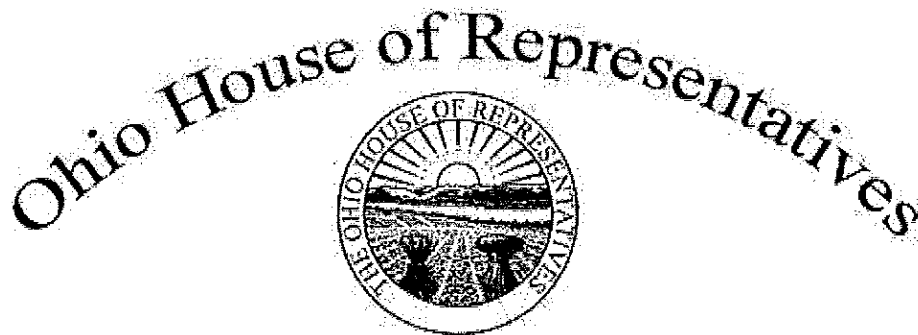
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**From:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 9:18 AM  
**To:** Thawley, Roanna  
**Subject:** REMINDER: DEADLINE EXTENDED Co-Sponsor Request: Public Sector Right-to-Work

**Current co-sponsors are Representatives Hood, Brinkman, Dean, Thompson, Vitale, Goodman, Riedel, Roegner, Merrin, Antani, Zeltwanger, and Keller. If you would like to join, please note the deadline is TODAY at 5 PM.**

**\*\*REMINDER: Deadline extended to Monday, February 6, 2017 @ 5 PM.\*\***



**Representative John Becker**  
Ohio's 65<sup>th</sup> House District

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** GOP House Members  
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This legislation:

- Provides public sector workers the choice to opt out of union representation and dues.
- Allows non-union employees to voluntarily make financial contributions to a union.
- Protects unions from the requirement of representing non-union employees.
- Appropriates \$30,000 in fiscal year 17 for pamphlets and brochures.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation or have any questions, please contact Roanna Thawley at (614) 466-8134 or [Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Roanna.Thawley@ohiohouse.gov). The deadline to co-sponsor is COB, Monday, February 6, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

*Roanna Thawley*

Legislative Aide

State Representative John Becker | Ohio House District 65

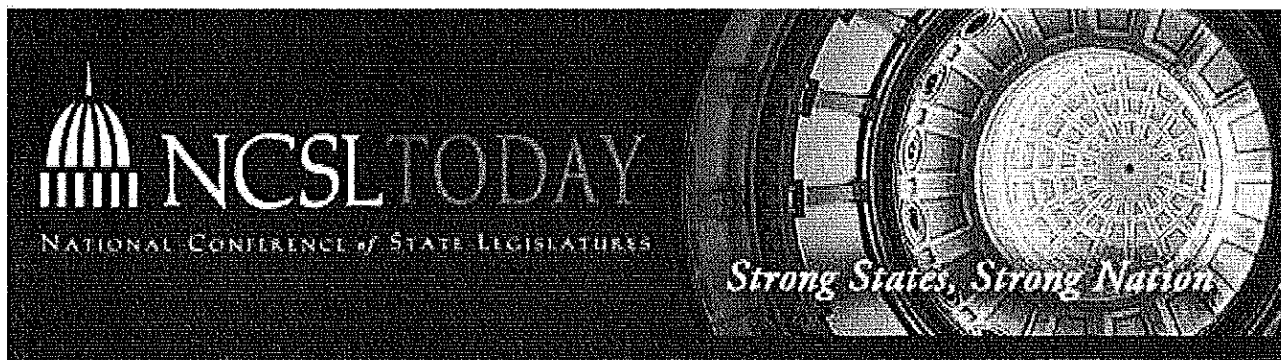
77 S. High Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor | Columbus, OH 43215

(614) 466-8134

[roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:roanna.thawley@ohiohouse.gov)

**From:** NCSL TODAY  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 11:20 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** Health care adjusts to a more diverse America

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## TOP NEWS Feb. 13, 2017

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### Health care adjusts to a more diverse America

*Stateline*

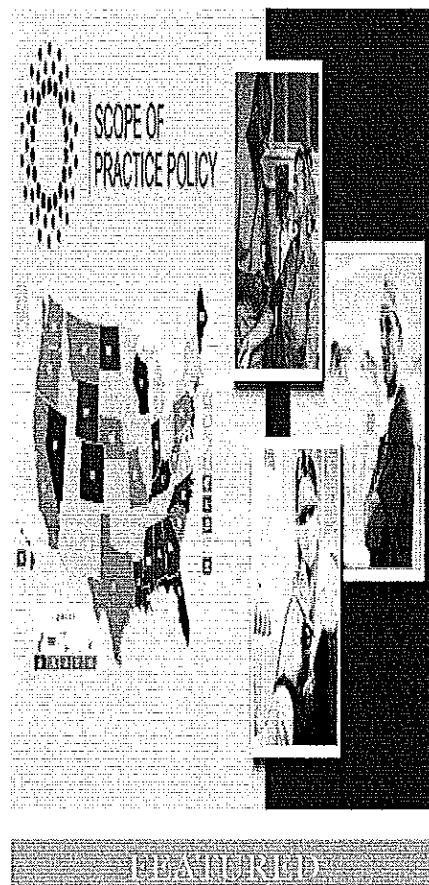
Health care providers will need to beef up language services, hire diverse staff, and pay attention to culturally appropriate care strategies.

### State GOP leaders move swiftly as party bickers in Congress

*The New York Times*

Republicans have top-to-bottom control in 25 states now, holding both the governorship and the entire legislature, and Republican lawmakers are acting with lightning speed to enact longstanding conservative priorities.

### Distracted driving penalties could increase statewide in Washington



*Associated Press*

Lawmakers heard emotional testimony this week from people who lost friends and family members in car accidents caused by drivers distracted by their phones. They are among many who want to make it illegal to hold any hand-held device while driving and ensure offenders receive harsher penalties. **NCSL data cited.**  
NCSL resources on distracted driving.

### **States increasingly targeted by cybercriminals**

*State Net Capitol Journal*

GCN, which provides research for public sector IT managers, reported that between 2013 and 2015 the number of cyberattacks on state computer networks in Utah increased 10,000-fold, from 50,000 to 20 million per day to 300 million to 500 million per day.  
NCSL resources on state cybersecurity legislation.

### **Tapping private sector for roads and bridges poses hurdles for Trump**

*Bloomberg*

Even as President Donald Trump vows to steer more private money toward improving U.S. roads, bridges and airports, familiar impediments may hinder investors. **NCSL data cited.**  
NCSL toolkit for legislators on public-private partnerships for transportation.

### **Despite union resistance, right-to-work momentum is growing**

### **Visit NCSL's new website on Scope of Practice Policy**

A health care provider's scope of practice describes the procedures, actions and processes that a health care practitioner is permitted to undertake in keeping with the terms of his or her professional license.



### **Autonomous vehicles legislative database**

### **Energy efficiency and renewables in lower-income homes**

### **State Legislatures magazine: Rocky road to fix aging roads, bridges**



### **House committee votes to terminate Election Assistance Commission**

The U.S. House Committee on House Administration voted 6-3 along party lines this week to

*Governing*

Several states have already passed right-to-work laws this year -- and their reach may finally expand into the Northeast.

NCSL resources on right-to-work laws.

terminate the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.



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**From:** report@hannah.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 3:45 PM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** Hannah News Stories for Monday, February 13, 2017

**Monday, February 13, 2017**

**IN TODAY'S HANNAH REPORT:**

**Please click here to read the entire Hannah Report.**

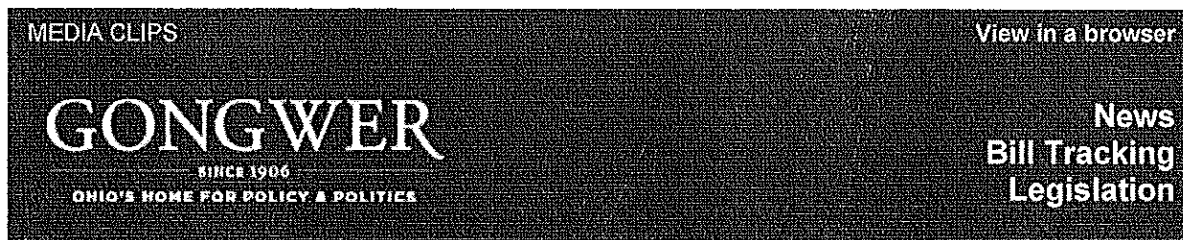
**Today's Stories**

- [Kasich Picks Sandusky for 'State of State'](#)
- [School Board Discusses ESSA Plan, Testing Reduction](#)
- [Finance Committee Releases Breakdown of State Agencies by Budget Subcommittee](#)
- [Becker Reintroduces 'Right to Work' for Public Sector Employees](#)
- ['Mr. Baseball,' Rep. West Reintroduce Bill Honoring Moses Fleetwood Walker](#)
- [Meet the Freshmen of the 132nd General Assembly: Brigid Kelly](#)
- [State Government Roundup: OBM LGF Distribution; AG Opioid Summit; Medicare Webinars](#)
- [Campaign Corner: Mandel](#)
- [People in the News: Ginter](#)
- [Ohio Digest: ZHF Consulting](#)
- [Ohio Attorney General Opinion Request](#)
- [Legislative Schedule Changes](#)

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**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:34 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Tuesday, February 14



## NEWS

Election, Women's March prompt women of color to seek office  
(Associated Press, 2/14/2017)

How young is too young? 36,000 elementary school suspensions  
(Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2017)

Kasich: Enough with the 'Rust Belt' (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/14/2017)

'Right-to-work' bill introduced in Ohio House (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2017)

Josh Mandel, gearing up for 2018 Senate run, has recruited campaign leaders in all 88 Ohio counties (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2017)

Learn how much a new college savings proposal in Ohio could save you (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2017)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich wants Sandusky to host this year's State of the State address (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2017)

That time President Donald Trump crashed a Lindner's wedding: Ohio Politics Roundup (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/14/2017)



**Kasich to give State of State in home of roller coasters and merry-go-rounds (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

**Statehouse maneuvering: Householder wants off committees (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

**The Daily Briefing: Former congressman, state lawmaker form lobbying firm (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

**The Daily Briefing: Trump's first presidential visit to Ohio canceled (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

**Your Right to Know: Drug-death records would be secret (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

**China shipments fuel local drug trade (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2017)**

**Gov. Kasich looks to make big changes to K-12 schools (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2017)**

**Ohio businesses set to cash in on pot (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2017)**

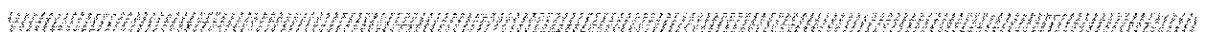
**What do you want Gov. Kasich to focus on in 2017? (Dayton Daily News, 2/14/2017)**

**Bill to honor Walker hits House floor for 3rd time (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2017)**

**Kasich looks to deliver 2017 address in Sandusky (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2017)**

**Senators' registry bill moves forward (Toledo Blade, 2/14/2017)**

## **EDITORIALS**



**Judges do their job in checking the executive (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/14/2017)**

**Editorial: Funding concerns still exist for College Credit Plus program (Canton Repository, 2/14/2017)**

**Editorial: More needed to fight overdoses (Columbus Dispatch, 2/14/2017)**

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:56 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/14/2017

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/14/2017



### **LOBBYIST PUSHING INTERSTATE CONNECTING TOLEDO, COLUMBUS**

A transportation lobbyist says he hopes the Trump administration's promise to invest billions on infrastructure could revive long dormant plans to build an interstate between Toledo and Columbus.



### **HOUSE SPEAKER UNHAPPY THAT AMBITIOUS LARRY HOUSEHOLDER WANTS OFF COMMITTEES**

A lawmaker trying to resign from his recently approved committee assignments is unusual, especially for a freshman.

### **KASICH TO GIVE STATE OF STATE IN HOME OF ROLLER COASTERS AND MERRY-GO-ROUNDS**

With an up-and-down record of success dealing with his fellow Republicans in the Ohio legislature, perhaps it's appropriate that Gov. John Kasich deliver his annual State of the State speech near the Roller Coaster Capital of the World.

### **YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW: DRUG-DEATH RECORDS WOULD BE SECRET**

The administration of Gov. John Kasich is out to add exemption (gg) to the Ohio public records act.

### **THE DAILY BRIEFING: FORMER CONGRESSMAN, STATE LAWMAKER FORM LOBBYING FIRM**

A former congressman, the former state tax commissioner and the former No. 2 leader of the Ohio House have teamed up to form a new lobbying and consulting firm.



## **WHAT DO YOU WANT GOV. KASICH TO FOCUS ON IN 2017?**

Once again, Ohio Gov. John Kasich is taking his annual State of the State address to the General Assembly on the road, and this time he is asking lawmakers to travel to Sandusky for the event on April 4.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **JOSH MANDEL, GEARING UP FOR 2018 SENATE RUN, HAS RECRUITED CAMPAIGN LEADERS IN ALL 88 OHIO COUNTIES**

State Treasurer Josh Mandel, who continues to assemble an early-developing campaign operation for U.S. Senate in 2018, on Monday announced the names of campaign leaders in all 88 Ohio counties.

### **LEARN HOW MUCH A NEW COLLEGE SAVINGS PROPOSAL IN OHIO COULD SAVE YOU**

A proposal introduced in Ohio Senate last month could sharply increase state income tax savings for some people contributing to 529 Ohio college saving plans.

### **'RIGHT-TO-WORK' BILL INTRODUCED IN OHIO HOUSE**

Legislation that would make Ohio a "right-to-work" state is back, but it's unclear how far the controversial measure will go after voters rejected a prior effort to scale back public union bargaining rights.

### **THAT TIME PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP CRASHED A LINDNER'S WEDDING: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP**

Youngstown is off for President Donald Trump. Sandusky is on for Gov. John Kasich. And Cliff Rosenberger finds a not-so-subtle way to show there's only one Ohio House speaker at a time.

## **THE ENQUIRER**

### **HOW YOUNG IS TOO YOUNG? 36,000 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS**

Ohio schools dole out up to 36,000 suspensions to elementary students each year – a number that stunned a Republican lawmaker into seeking a ban on many suspensions and expulsions.

## **THE BLADE**

(One of America's Great Newspapers)

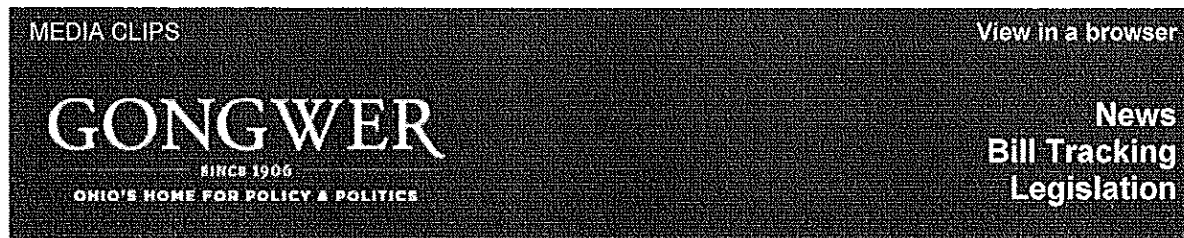
### **SENATORS' REGISTRY BILL MOVES FORWARD**

Under a bill about to be introduced, Ohio would join five states that require certain offenders with violent pasts to register their whereabouts, much as sex offenders are required to do.

### **KASICH LOOKS TO DELIVER 2017 ADDRESS IN SANDUSKY**

Sandusky had wanted Gov. John Kasich to deliver his final State of the State address as part of the city's bicentennial celebration in 2018, but it's more than happy to welcome him a year early.

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:35 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Wednesday, February 15



## NEWS

Kasich would block access to heroin death reviews (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/15/2017)

Kasich: Teachers should job shadow with businesses to renew licenses (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/15/2017)

Ohio Dems in limbo on governor's race (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/15/2017)

Josh Mandel's Senate campaign names Portage County chairwoman -- but it's news to her (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

Ohio teachers would have to job shadow at a business to renew licenses under Gov. John Kasich's budget (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

Sen. Rob Portman says he listened to fierce critics of Betsy DeVos but 'did my own research' (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

Superintendents: Cut state tests, end As and Fs on state report cards (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

Are local resources enough to combat Ohio's opioid epidemic?  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Brown, Portman say Flynn made right decision to resign (Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Latest study: Ohio-style Medicaid may save \$1B a year (Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Most vocational schools would lose funding under Kasich proposal  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Ohio House Dems say GOP tax cuts aren't working (Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Ohio nurses want law limiting nurse-patient ratios (Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

The Daily Briefing: Rob Secaur new executive director of Ohio GOP  
(Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Trump may shrink EPA, but effects in Ohio to be delayed (Columbus Dispatch, 2/15/2017)

Cursive handwriting could be required for Ohio students again (Dayton Daily News, 2/15/2017)

New national security adviser a Dayton native (Dayton Daily News, 2/15/2017)

Ohio lawmakers react to resignation of Michael Flynn (Dayton Daily News, 2/15/2017)

Mandel lists campaign leaders for Senate bid (Toledo Blade, 2/15/2017)

Senators' registry bill moves forward (Toledo Blade, 2/15/2017)

## EDITORIALS

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**Bid to ban Ohio sanctuary cities a craven political ploy: editorial**  
(Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/15/2017)

**'You're fired' (Toledo Blade, 2/15/2017)**

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**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2017 5:49 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/15/2017

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/15/2017

**The Columbus Dispatch**  
*Ohio's Greatest Online Newspaper*

### **ARE LOCAL RESOURCES ENOUGH TO COMBAT OHIO'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC?**

Roger T. Winemiller lost his sister to a heroin overdose the night before Easter last year.

### **TRUMP MAY SHRINK EPA, BUT EFFECTS IN OHIO TO BE DELAYED**

President Donald Trump's first few weeks have left Washington disoriented and environmentalists worried.

### **OHIO HOUSE DEMS SAY GOP TAX CUTS AREN'T WORKING**

House Democrats say Ohioans need to wake up and realize the Republican tax plans passed over the past decade have not been working to create jobs.

### **MOST VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS WOULD LOSE FUNDING UNDER KASICH PROPOSAL**

Like Ohio's libraries and K-12 school districts, vocational schools soon could be feeling the squeeze of Ohio's tightening purse strings.

### **LATEST STUDY: OHIO-STYLE MEDICAID MAY SAVE \$1B A YEAR**

Even if your eyes glaze at the mere mention of Medicaid, this might widen your peepers: Ohio's revamped setup is saving taxpayers \$1 billion annually — and the amount is growing.

### **OHIO NURSES WANT LAW LIMITING NURSE-PATIENT RATIOS**

Arguing that hospitals put patient care at risk by overworking essential front-line caregivers, nurses across Ohio are pushing lawmakers to limit the number of patients for whom they are responsible.

### **EDUCATION INSIDER: SOME IN COLUMBUS SCHOOLS DATA-RIGGING SCANDAL YET TO BE PUNISHED**

Will the state Department of Education ever discipline dozens of Columbus City Schools principals and other administrators who participated in the district's data scandal?

### **THE DAILY BRIEFING: ROB SECAUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OHIO GOP**

The Ohio Republican Party has a new person in charge of the day-to-day operations.

### **THE DAILY BRIEFING: JOANNA SAUL HIRED AS PLANNED PARENTHOOD STATE LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

Joanna Saul has a new job with Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio as vice president of government affairs and public advocacy.

**Dayton Daily News**  
www.daytondailynews.com

## **2 REASONS ONE DEMOCRAT SAYS 'OHIO IS GOING IN A TERRIBLE DIRECTION'**

Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper will visit Butler County tonight to talk about the upcoming statewide political cycle.

## **WEST CHESTER WEIGHS IN ON OHIO'S 'RIGHT-TO-WORK' LEGISLATION**

West Chester Twp. trustees say it would be great if Ohio turned into a "right to work" state, because then the township wouldn't have to.

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **TALK IT OUT: SHOULD OHIO BECOME A 'RIGHT TO WORK' STATE?**

Legislation has been introduced for a second time that would allow Ohio to join the growing ranks of states limiting union membership and collective bargaining. The measure was placed before state lawmakers Monday.

### **CURSIVE HANDWRITING BACK IN SCHOOLS? SOME LEGISLATORS WANT TO REQUIRE IT**

Some state legislators have renewed efforts from two years ago to bring cursive handwriting back to Ohio's elementary schools.

### **JOSH MANDEL'S SENATE CAMPAIGN NAMES PORTAGE COUNTY CHAIRWOMAN - BUT IT'S NEWS TO HER**

Senate candidate Josh Mandel's announcement that he had recruited campaign chairs in each of Ohio's 88 counties caught at least one person by surprise: Janet Esposito, the woman he listed as leading the charge for him in Portage County.

### **OHIO TEACHERS WOULD HAVE TO JOB SHADOW AT A BUSINESS TO RENEW LICENSES UNDER GOV. JOHN KASICH'S BUDGET**

Ohio teachers would have to job shadow someone in a local business to renew their licenses under a provision in Gov. John Kasich's state budget proposal.

### **SUPERINTENDENTS: CUT STATE TESTS, END AS AND FS ON STATE REPORT CARDS**

The state should stop grading schools and school districts with A through F grades, while also cutting the amount of state tests and making sure the tests help teachers teach students better, a group of local superintendents says.

### **ED FITZGERALD STILL HAS MONEY IN HIS CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT. HERE'S HOW HE HAS BEEN SPENDING IT**

Ed FitzGerald, the former Cuyahoga County executive who has kept out of the public eye since an unsuccessful bid for governor more than two years ago, continues to draw from a campaign account that started 2017 with a balance of nearly \$85,000.

### **STATE IS IGNORING THE PUBLIC'S WISHES IN ITS ESSA PLAN, 10 LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS SAY**

A group of local superintendents and other educators questioned Monday the Ohio Department of Education's avoidance of any real changes the public sought in its proposed state education plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

### **BID TO BAN OHIO SANCTUARY CITIES A CRAVEN POLITICAL PLOY: EDITORIAL**

What does it mean to be a sanctuary city? To Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, it seems, nothing more nor less than another stepping stone to higher office.

## **THE ENQUIRER**

### **KASICH: TEACHERS SHOULD JOB SHADOW WITH BUSINESSES TO RENEW LICENSES**

Teachers would have to complete "externships" – essentially, a high-level job shadow – with a local business to renew their licenses under a provision in Gov. John Kasich's budget proposal.

### **JOHN KASICH WOULD BLOCK ACCESS TO HEROIN DEATH REVIEWS**

Gov. John Kasich's budget would give counties a new way to review drug overdose deaths, but many components of those investigations into Ohio's drug epidemic could be shielded from public view.

### **OHIO DEMS HUNGRY FOR 2018 WIN, BUT IN LIMBO ON GOVERNOR'S RACE**

Ohio Democrats have no shortage of "maybes" lining up for the 2018 governor's race, with a dozen candidates pondering a bid.

## **THE BLADE**

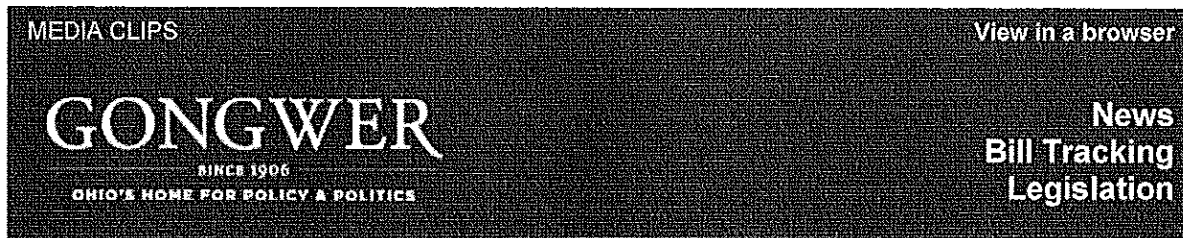
### **MANDEL LISTS CAMPAIGN LEADERS FOR SENATE BID**

Republican Senate candidate Josh Mandel has named campaign chairmen for his planned 2018 U.S. Senate run in every county.

### **SECAUR NAMED GOP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Ohio Republican Chairman Jane Timken appointed Rob Secaur as the state party's new executive director.

**From:** Gongwer News Service  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:21 AM  
**To:** Derksen, Nick  
**Subject:** Ohio Media Clips, Thursday, February 16



## NEWS

Ohio bill: Kill the tampon tax (Cincinnati Enquirer, 2/16/2017)

Andrew Puzder, Trump's Cleveland-born labor secretary nominee, withdraws amid controversy (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/16/2017)

Gov. John Kasich headed for Germany, England (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/16/2017)

Marsy's Law for Ohio begins campaign for crime victim ballot initiative (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/16/2017)

Ohio congress members Marcia Fudge, Tim Ryan back Jaime Harrison of SC for DNC chair (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/16/2017)

Talk it out: Should Ohio become a 'right to work' state? (Cleveland Plain Dealer, 2/16/2017)

Sherrod Brown, 10 other senators, call for special investigation of Flynn (Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/2017)

Sherrod Brown, Ohio labor leader glad that Puzder withdrew (Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/2017)

**The Daily Briefing: It's official, Portman supports Gorsuch for Supreme Court (Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/2017)**

**The Daily Briefing: Kasich talking security, jobs in Germany, United Kingdom (Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/2017)**

**Crime victims seek more rights and protections in Ohio constitution (Dayton Daily News, 2/16/2017)**

**Ohio working on marijuana 'seed to sale' tracking (Dayton Daily News, 2/16/2017)**

**Should Ohio schools start after Labor Day? (Dayton Daily News, 2/16/2017)**

**Some speed limits in Ohio may change daily depending on traffic (Dayton Daily News, 2/16/2017)**

**Ohio clears wording of cocaine sentencing (Toledo Blade, 2/16/2017)**

## **EDITORIALS**

**Trump, Flynn and the Russian link (Akron Beacon Journal, 2/16/2017)**

**Editorial: Enrollment drop is real problem (Columbus Dispatch, 2/16/2017)**

**Escaping DeVos (Toledo Blade, 2/16/2017)**

**We owe them (Toledo Blade, 2/16/2017)**

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**From:** Miller, Josh  
**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2017 1:12 PM  
**To:** Members\_All; Staff\_All  
**Subject:** Co-sponsor Request: Private Sector Right to Work



**Tom Brinkman, Jr.**  
*State Representative, 27<sup>th</sup> District*  
**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** All House Members  
**From:** Representative Tom Brinkman, Jr.  
**Date:** February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**RE:** Private Sector Right to Work

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I will soon be introducing Private Sector Right to Work legislation. Our neighboring states of Michigan, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Indiana have passed Right to Work, and it is long overdue here in Ohio.

This important bill will help make Ohio businesses more competitive and prosperous by eliminating forced union dues and memberships. **No one should be forced to pay a union to get or keep a job.**

If you are interested in co-sponsoring please contact my legislative aide Josh Miller at 614-644-6886 or [Josh.Miller@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:Josh.Miller@ohiohouse.gov) by the close of business on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Tom Brinkman, Jr.  
Ohio House of Representatives  
District 27



**From:** Westlake, Libby  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 5:25 AM  
**To:** Westlake, Libby  
**Subject:** E-Clips for 2/24/2017

## HOUSE E-CLIPS

2/24/2017



### **OHIO, WISCONSIN KICK-START TALKS ON MANAGING TRUMP EFFECT**

Republican legislative leaders from Ohio and Wisconsin are working together, hoping other states will join them, as they prepare for changes in how the federal government under President Donald Trump deals with states.

### **KASICH CLEARED TO GIVE STATE OF THE STATE SPEECH IN SANDUSKY**

Ohio lawmakers have signed off on the governor's plan to deliver his annual State of the State speech in Sandusky.

### **OHIO TASK FORCE FINDS MIXED PROGRESS ON COLLEGE COST-CUTTING**

The group said too few schools have identified how resources will improve college affordability and education quality.



### **TRUMP-ERA CHALLENGES BRING OHIO, WISCONSIN LEADERS TOGETHER**

Republican legislative leaders from Ohio and Wisconsin came together Thursday for what they hope will be an ongoing collaborative effort to prepare for when the Trump administration begins handing states more authority.

### **PLAN WOULD CUT PENALTY FOR MISSING FRONT PLATE**

Ohio lawmakers took a small step toward reducing the penalty for missing front license plates and exempted natural gas fleets from taxation in changes Thursday to the proposed state transportation budget.

### **LT. GOV. TAYLOR CREATES GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

It comes as no surprise, but Mary Taylor now is a formal candidate in the crowded field for the Republican nomination for governor in 2018.

### **KASICH SUMMONED TO HELP CRAFT MEDICAID SOLUTION AMID OBAMACARE REPEAL**

Ohio Gov. John Kasich is among a small group of governors being called upon by congressional Republicans to help craft a solution to the Medicaid expansion conundrum amid the repeal and replacement of Obamacare.

**Dayton Daily News**  
www.daytondailynews.com

### **NEW RULES SET FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA USE IN OHIO**

Ohio is taking steps to make sure medical marijuana isn't pitched in a way that is attractive to kids by banning cartoon characters, candy look-alikes and fruit shapes and requiring child-resistant packaging.

### **OHIO STEP CLOSER TO RAISING LICENSE PLATE, DRIVER'S LICENSE FEES**

The Ohio House is scheduled to vote on a transportation budget bill Tuesday that includes increases in fees paid for vehicle plates and driver's licenses.

### **LT. GOV. MARY TAYLOR SIGNALS SHE'S RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR IN 2018**

Republican Mary Taylor signaled on Thursday that she wants the top job when she filed paperwork for a new campaign committee titled: "Mary Taylor for Governor."

## **THE PLAIN DEALER**

### **MARY TAYLOR FOR GOVERNOR LAUNCHES**

In the surest sign yet that she will run for governor in 2018, Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has formed a committee that allows her to begin campaigning and raising money for what stands to be a tough Republican primary.

### **OHIO CITIES COULD STOP PAYING PREVAILING WAGE TO CONSTRUCTION**

#### **WORKERS UNDER PROPOSED BILL**

Local governments could opt out of paying Ohio's prevailing wage on public construction projects under a new proposal from state Sen. Matt Huffman.

### **SEAN SPICER HEADLINING D.C. FUNDRAISER FOR OHIO SEN. FRANK LAROSE**

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer is headlining a Washington, D.C. fundraiser for Ohio Sen. Frank LaRose next week, according to a flier for the event.

### **PROPOSED LIMITS FOR MEDICAL MARIJUANA SUPPLY IN OHIO AMONG STRICTEST**

Proposed limits on how much medical marijuana Ohio patients could buy and possess would be among the strictest the country.

### **2018 OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE GETS MORE 'OFFICIAL' WITH MARY TAYLOR: OHIO POLITICS ROUNDUP**

Taylor takes the plunge: Ohio Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor on Thursday filed paperwork forming a gubernatorial campaign committee, and a website, [www.marytaylorforgovernor.com](http://www.marytaylorforgovernor.com), [cleveland.com](http://cleveland.com)'s Henry J. Gomez writes.